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GIANT BATMAN

SUPERMAN DC NATIONAL COMICS

# BATMAN

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NO. 223

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

25¢

BATMAN AND ROBIN FACE DANGER AROUND THE WORLD!

CRIME IN CANADA

TROUBLE IN TIBET

MYSTERY IN MEXICO

EVIL IN ENGLAND

HAZARD IN HOLLAND

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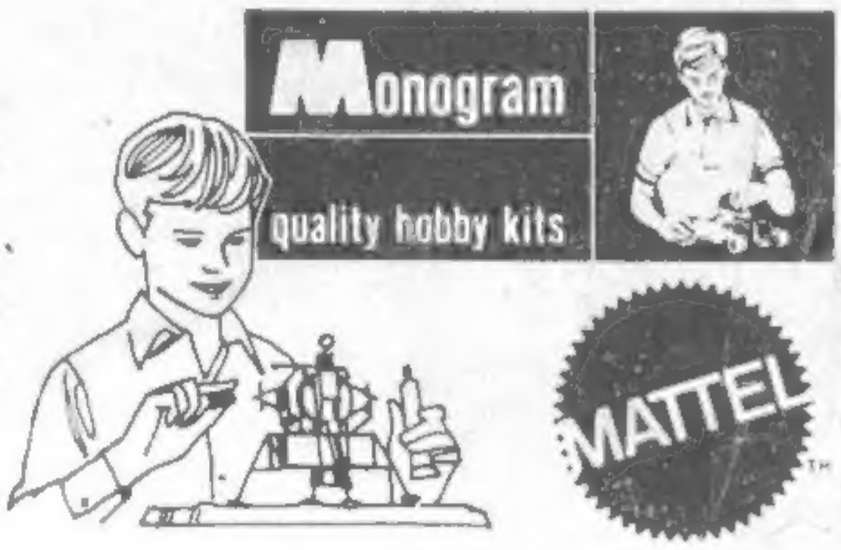


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# GIANT BATMAN Featuring DANGER AROUND THE WORLD!

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The **London** police never use guns...but a fugitive American hood operating in England does! So **Batman** and **Robin** join forces with **Scotland Yard** to track down the trigger-happy thug!

**BATMAN OF THE MOUNTIES**

A wounded **Mountie** deputizes **Batman,** and the **Caped Crime-Fighter** sets out through the **Canadian** snows to capture two killers ...and keep intact the tradition that a **Mountie** always gets his man!

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In colorful **New Orleans** for the **Mardi Gras, Batman** and **Robin** run into a baffling puzzle when a lovely lady gives them an envelope —and a gang of costumed crooks tries to take it away from them!

**JOURNEY TO THE TOP OF THE WORLD**

To recover vital evidence against top underworld leaders, the **Dynamic Duo** must scale a hitherto unclimbed mountain in the remote **Himalayas!** But a killer is determined to see that they don't make it...alive!

**AROUND THE WORLD IN 8 DAYS**

A serum needed to save a man's life has been stolen! **Batman** and **Robin** have only eight days to recover it...which they must do by tackling a world-wide syndicate with agents in eight far-flung places...from **Vienna** and **Venice** to **Algiers** and **Siam!**



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# BATMAN
With
# ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

FAMED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD ARE THE SLEUTHS OF SCOTLAND YARD, HEADQUARTERS OF THE LONDON POLICE! THE JUSTLY CELEBRATED LAWMEN WAGE WAR AGAINST CRIME WITHOUT THE USE OF FIREARMS... AND THE PENALTIES OF THE LAW ARE SEVERE UPON GUN-WIELDING CRIMINALS! BUT A NOTORIOUS AMERICAN GANG CHIEF LEADS GUN-HAPPY CRIMINAL COHORTS IN TERROR RAIDS AGAINST UNARMED LONDON BOBBIES! AND BATMAN AND ROBIN, FIGHTING FOES OF FELONS, RISK THEIR LIVES TO HELP DEFEND THE...

## "CITY WITHOUT GUNS!"

BOB KANE

See Authentic Prison Ship of 1808
Admission Two Shillings

from DETECTIVE No. 196 (JUNE, 1953).

ONE DAY, IN GOTHAM HARBOR, A POWERFUL SPEEDBOAT RACES SWIFTLY TOWARD THE OPEN SEA...

NOTIFY THE COAST GUARD! FRANK LUMARDI'S ESCAPING!

HE WON'T GET FAR! HE'S ALL THROUGH AS A GANG BOSS IN THIS COUNTRY! WHEN HE TRIES TO GET BACK, HE'S BOUND TO GET PICKED UP!

BUT FRANK LUMARDI HAS NO INTENTION OF RETURNING...

THAT'S THE CARGO SHIP... WAITING OUTSIDE THE TWELVE-MILE LIMIT! IT'S GOODBYE TO THE U.S.A. FOR ME! NOTHING BUT STIR WAITING IF I GO BACK THERE!

A MONTH AFTER GANG CHIEFTAIN FRANK LUMARDI GOES INTO EXILE, BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON, ARRIVE IN ENGLAND ON A HOLIDAY...

I'M GOING TO ENJOY PLAYING TOURIST FOR AWHILE!

I'VE ARRANGED TO MIX BUSINESS AND PLEASURE, DICK! I'VE GOT A LETTER OF INTRODUCTION FROM COMMISSIONER GORDON TO INSPECTOR DEGGERS... OF SCOTLAND YARD! WHILE WE'RE IN LONDON, I'D LIKE TO STUDY THEIR CRIME-FIGHTING METHODS!

SOON, IN INSPECTOR DEGGERS' HEAD-QUARTERS...

IS IT TRUE, INSPECTOR, THAT THE LONDON POLICE NEVER CARRY GUNS? THAT'S AN UNUSUAL METHOD OF FIGHTING CRIME!

WELL, SHERLOCK HOLMES DIDN'T NEED A GUN TO SOLVE HIS FAMOUS CASES! NEITHER DID MANY OF THE OTHER GREAT CRIME-FIGHTERS WHOSE PICTURES ADORN THIS GALLERY...

SHERLOCK HOLMES

BATMAN'S AND ROBIN'S PICTURE BELONGS IN THIS FRAME! IT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN RIPPED OUT BY SOMEONE IN A FIT OF ANGER!

THAT'S A SUBJECT WE DON'T DISCUSS, MR. WAYNE! THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE TOO PAINFUL TO ALL OF US HERE AT SCOTLAND YARD!

BATMAN & ROBIN

I CAN ONLY TELL YOU THIS! BATMAN'S AND ROBIN'S PORTRAIT HELD A PLACE OF HONOR THERE... WITH THE GREATEST SLEUTHS OF ALL TIME! BUT IT'S NOT LIKELY THAT THEIR PORTRAIT WILL HANG THERE AGAIN!

?

MOMENTS LATER...

THIS IS THE RECEIVING STATION, WHERE ALARMS FROM ALL OVER LONDON ARE PINPOINTED AND... UH-OH! THERE'S AN ALARM FROM LEICESTER SQUARE! YOU MUST EXCUSE ME!

OF COURSE, INSPECTOR DEGGERS!

THAMES

IN A DESERTED ROOM, BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON SWIFTLY CHANGE INTO THE FIGHTING TOGS OF **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**, THE **BOY WONDER**...

INSPECTOR DEGGERS IS HURRYING TO ANSWER THAT CALL! SHALL WE JOIN HIM?

I'D LIKE TO WATCH THE LONDON POLICE IN ACTION! I WANT TO SEE HOW THEY STOP CRIMES WITHOUT GUNS!

AND SOON, WHEN INSPECTOR DEGGERS ARRIVES AT LEICESTER SQUARE...

I'M GLAD YOU GOT HERE SO SOON! FOUR CRIMINALS, ARMED WITH GUNS, STOLE MY BRIEFCASE!

YOUR BRIEFCASE? THIS IS SERIOUS! I'LL HAVE A POLICE CORDON THROWN AROUND THE SQUARE AT ONCE!

THE MANTLED CRIME-BUSTERS ALSO SWING INTO ACTION...

STEALING A BRIEFCASE SOUNDS LIKE PETTY LARCENY, **BATMAN!**

INSPECTOR DEGGERS DOESN'T SEEM TO THINK SO! COME ON! MAYBE WE CAN HELP ROUND UP THE CROOKS FOR HIM!

FURTHER ON, HEROIC LONDON BOBBIES CLOSE IN ON THE SURROUNDED CROOKS...

WE'RE TRAPPED, LUMARDI!

THIS IS ONE TRAP WE CAN **SHOOT** OUR WAY OUT OF! THESE COPS DON'T CARRY GUNS! **BLAST 'EM!**

ABRUPTLY, TWO HUMAN BOMBSHELLS BURST IN THE MIDST OF THE OUTLAWS...

FRANK LUMARDI! YOU LEFT THE UNITED STATES BY REQUEST SOME TIME AGO! SO THIS IS WHERE YOU'RE OPERATING NOW!

**BATMAN AND ROBIN!**

I NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE **YOU** IN LONDON! BUT I'LL ARRANGE FOR YOU TO **DIE** HERE!

YOU'RE TRIGGER-HAPPY, LUMARDI!

**BAM**

**BAM BAM**

SUDDENLY...

HELP!

THAT BUS -- RUNNING WILD! ONE OF LUMARDI'S STRAY BULLETS MUST HAVE HIT THE DRIVER!

IT'S HEADING THIS WAY! ONLY ONE CHANCE TO STOP IT BEFORE IT CRASHES INTO A BUILDING! IF I OPEN THIS MANHOLE...

LIMEHOUSE

BATMAN'S DARING GAMBLE PAYS OFF...

IT WORKED! THE FRONT WHEEL SANK INTO THE MANHOLE OPENING -- AND BROUGHT THE BUS TO A SUDDEN STOP! THE PASSENGERS GOT A BAD JARRING -- BUT AT LEAST THEY'RE SAFE! IF THE BUS *HADN'T* STOPPED, I'D HAVE BEEN CRUSHED, TOO!

AS ROBIN WATCHES BATMAN'S DARING MANEUVER, A TREACHEROUS FOE STRIKES...

WONDERFUL! BATMAN SAVED ALL THOSE PEOPLE IN... UHHH!

THIS GUN WORKS AT BOTH ENDS, KID! NOW THAT WE'RE RID OF BATMAN AND ROBIN, WE CAN SHOOT OUR WAY OUT OF HERE!

MINUTES LATER...

LUMARDI AND HIS MEN GOT AWAY! LUCKILY, THE DRIVER OF THE BUS WASN'T BADLY WOUNDED!

NOW YOU KNOW ONE REASON WHY THE POLICE NEVER CARRY GUNS IN LONDON! INNOCENT PEOPLE MAY BE HURT IN A CROSSFIRE!

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE IN LONDON, BATMAN! I WAS JUST DISCUSSING YOU A SHORT WHILE AGO... WITH A COUPLE OF VISITING AMERICANS! WE WERE TALKING ABOUT A CERTAIN PORTRAIT OF YOURS!

I'D STILL LIKE TO KNOW WHY OUR PORTRAIT WAS TORN OUT OF ITS FRAME! BUT THERE ARE MORE SERIOUS MATTERS TO DISCUSS JUST NOW!

DID THOSE CROOKS GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING VALUABLE, INSPECTOR?

THE GUN-WIELDING BLACKGUARDS MADE OFF WITH 8,000 POUNDS... NEARLY $20,000 IN AMERICAN MONEY! THEY ROBBED A CLERK FROM THE BANK OF ENGLAND... IN HIS ROOM AT LEICESTER SQUARE!

*HUH?* WHAT WAS A CLERK DOING IN A ROOM WITH THAT MUCH MONEY? IT'S SATURDAY -- AND THE BANK IS CLOSED!

IT'S AN OLD CUSTOM, ***BATMAN!*** DATES BACK TO WATERLOO! THE ***LONDON TIMES*** WANTED TO SEND A REPORTER TO COVER THE BATTLE! BUT THE BATTLE OCCURRED ON A SUNDAY, AND THE EDITOR COULDN'T RAISE MONEY FOR PASSAGE... AND EVER SINCE, THE BANK HAS KEPT A CLERK AVAILABLE IN A ROOM IN LEICESTER SQUARE WITH ENOUGH CASH ON HAND IF EMERGENCIES HAPPEN OVER A WEEKEND!

HMM! FRANK LUMARDI MUST BE MAKING A STUDY OF ENGLISH CUSTOMS -- OR HE'D NEVER HAVE KNOWN THAT! WE SHOULD BE MAKING OUR OWN STUDY OF LUMARDI'S CRIME HABITS, SO WE COULD FIGURE OUT WHAT ***HE'S*** LIKELY TO DO NEXT!

BUT WITHOUT OUR FILES IN THE ***BATCAVE***, WE'RE HELPLESS!

***BATMAN*** AND ***ROBIN***... *IN THE FLESH! 'PON MY SOUL! I MUST HAVE THEIR AUTOGRAPH!*

*SOON...*

MY NAME IS CHESTER GLEEK! I HAVE THE HONOR OF BEING YOUR FOREMOST ENGLISH ADMIRER! I'VE MODELED MY OWN CRIME-FIGHTING METHODS AFTER YOURS!

WELL... UH... I WISH YOU LUCK, MR. GLEEK!

YOU SHAN'T RUN AWAY, ***BATMAN!*** I WANT YOU TO SEE MY LABORATORY -- FULLY EQUIPPED TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIMINALS! COME ALONG!

BUT I... ER... OH, ALL RIGHT!

*A FANTASTIC SURPRISE AWAITS* ***BATMAN*** *AND* ***ROBIN*** *IN THE BASEMENT OF CHESTER GLEEK'S HOME...*

***HUH!*** IT'S JUST LIKE THE ***BATCAVE!***

LOOK HERE, ***BATMAN!*** HE'S EVEN GOT A COMPLETE FILE OF CRIMINALS --- JUST LIKE WE HAVE AT HOME!

I'VE COMPILED THAT LIST FOR YEARS! NATURALLY, I WANT TO KNOW ALL ABOUT CRIMINALS IN CASE I SHOULD EVER CROSS TRAILS WITH THEM MYSELF!

HERE'S A CARD ON FRANK LUMARDI! IT HAS SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT HIM, **BATMAN!** LUMARDI IS AN ARDENT HORSEMAN... AND HE LOVES TO BE SEEN IN THE COMPANY OF SOCIETY FOLK!

THAT MIGHT ADD UP TO AN INTERESTING CONCLUSION, **ROBIN!** ROTTEN ROW, IN HYDE PARK, IS THE PLACE IN LONDON WHERE SOCIETY FOLK RIDE THEIR HORSES!

THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I WANT TO SHOW YOU... IN MY GARAGE!

AND CHESTER GLEEK OPENS THE GARAGE DOOR TO REVEAL...

**THE BATMOBILE!** BUT HOW...?

RATHER A SUCCESSFUL IMITATION, DON'T YOU THINK? I WANT YOU TO USE IT WHILE YOU'RE IN LONDON!

LATER, AS AN IMITATION **BATMOBILE** ROARS THROUGH THE QUIET STREETS OF OLD LONDON...

MY WORD!

GRACIOUS!

EGAD!

NICE OF CHESTER GLEEK TO LET US USE HIS MODEL OF THE **BATMOBILE!**

DOESN'T HAVE THE POWER OF THE REAL **BATMOBILE, ROBIN!** BUT IT MAY PROVE USEFUL!

EVEN AS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** NEAR ROTTEN ROW, THIS SCENE IS TAKING PLACE THERE...

HORSEBACK RIDIN' AIN'T EXACTLY IN OUR LINE, LUMARDI!

QUIET, CHUMP! I THINK BETTER IN THE PROPER SURROUNDINGS! I'VE WORKED OUT OUR NEXT CRIME PLAN ALREADY!

AND THEN...

**EEEYOW! THE BATMOBILE!**

**BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** HAVE SEEN US! FOLLOW ME! WE'LL ESCAPE... AND PULL OFF THE JOB I PLANNED!

FRANK LUMARDI AND HIS GANG! AFTER THEM, BATMAN, BEFORE...

THEY CONKED OUR ENGINE, ROBIN!

BANG BANG

THIS NEVER COULD HAPPEN WITH OUR OWN BULLET-PROOF BATMOBILE!

WE CAN'T LET LUMARDI GET AWAY FROM US! WE'LL NEED ANOTHER KIND OF TRANSPORTATION!

QUICKLY BORROWING A STEED...

TALLY HO, BATMAN! GOOD HUNTING!

WE'LL RETURN YOUR HORSE AS SOON AS WE CAN!

AND FINALLY, OUTSIDE FAMED MADAME TUSSAUD'S WAX MUSEUM...

THEIR HORSES ARE TETHERED OUTSIDE!

HEAR THAT SHOT? LUMARDI'S INSIDE, ALL RIGHT!

Madame TUSSAUDS WAX MUSEUM

THAT SHOT WAS A WARNING! NEXT TIME WE'LL SHOOT TO KILL! HAND OVER THOSE DEATH MASKS!

÷GULP!÷ THESE MASKS WERE TAKEN FROM FAMOUS PEOPLE A FEW MINUTES AFTER THEY DIED! THEY'RE PRICELESS!

WOULDN'T YOU RATHER KNOW HOW THOSE FAMOUS PEOPLE DIED? ROBESPIERRE LOST HIS HEAD ON THE GUILLOTINE!

MAGELLAN WAS KILLED BY AN ARROW!

AND CAPTAIN KIDD WAS HANGED!

UNDER COVER OF GUNFIRE, THE CROOKS BEAT A RETREAT!

THIS WAY OUT, MEN! I'LL KEEP THEM BACK!

RICHARD THE LION HEARTED WON'T MIND LENDING ME HIS SHIELD! IT'S HELPING ANOTHER CRUSADE--- AGAINST CRIME!

AND AS BATMAN AND ROBIN SEEK TO FOLLOW...

WHAT?

WHERE DID THESE CHARACTERS COME FROM?

WE ARE MEMBERS OF THE PICKWICK BICYCLE CLUB! EVERYONE IN LONDON KNOWS ABOUT US!

THEY'RE DRESSED LIKE CHARACTERS FROM DICKENS' NOVEL-- "THE PICKWICK PAPERS!" BUT I CAN'T ADMIRE THEIR QUAINT APPEARANCE! THEY ACCIDENTALLY HELPED FRANK LUMARDI AND HIS GANG TO ESCAPE!

AT SCOTLAND YARD, BATMAN AND ROBIN CONFER WITH CHIEF INSPECTOR DEGGERS...

LUMARDI AND HIS GANG HAVE GONE INTO HIDING! THEY CAN'T BE STAYING IN THE SAME PLACE SINCE IT WOULD ATTRACT ATTENTION! SO THEY MUST HAVE A METHOD OF GETTING IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER WHEN THEY'RE GOING TO PULL A JOB!

I AGREE, BATMAN! I'VE BEEN SCANNING THESE POLICE REPORTS IN HOPES I COULD TURN UP A CLUE TO THE BLIGHTER'S INTENTIONS!

NOTHING UNUSUAL HAS OCCURRED--- EXCEPT FOR THIS! A BLOKE WAS CAUGHT DEFACING THE STATUE OF ISIS IN THE ROYAL MUSEUM! HE CLAIMS HE WAS PAID TO DO SO, AND TO MAKE CERTAIN HIS CRIME WAS REPORTED IN THE DAILY JOURNALS!

IF THIS IS LUMARDI'S WAY OF COMMUNICATING HIS NEXT CRIME PLAN TO HIS HENCHMEN, I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT! WHAT POSSIBLE CONNECTION WOULD AN EGYPTIAN GODDESS, ISIS, HAVE WITH A CRIME TO BE COMMITTED IN LONDON?

WELL, THE UPPER PART OF THE THAMES RIVER IS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS "ISIS"! BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKELY THAT...

OH, YES, IT DOES! LUMARDI'S TIPPING OFF HIS MEN, BY A PREARRANGED SIGNAL, WHERE THEIR NEXT JOB WILL BE PULLED!

WE'LL SCOUT THAT NEIGHBORHOOD THOROUGHLY! BUT... UH... INSPECTOR, WOULD YOU MIND ANSWERING A QUESTION? WHY WAS OUR PORTRAIT RIPPED OUT OF THE FRAME HERE?

BATMAN & ROBIN

I CAN'T EXPLAIN THAT, ***BATMAN!*** IT'S A SUBJECT WE ***NEVER*** DISCUSS HERE AT SCOTLAND YARD! BUT I'LL TAKE FULL ***RESPONSIBILITY*** FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO IT!

THE MYSTERY OF OUR MISSING PORTRAIT GETS WORSE ALL THE TIME! INSPECTOR DEGGERS SEEMS FRIENDLY--- YET WHY WOULD HE ***ORDER*** OUR PORTRAIT TO BE TORN DOWN?

SOMETHING WE'VE DONE IN OUR CAREERS MUST HAVE OFFENDED HIM TERRIBLY! THAT'S MY GUESS, ***BATMAN!***

*AS THE PUZZLED PAIR OF CRIME-FIGHTERS DRIVES OFF IN THE REPAIRED* ***BATMOBILE...***

I'VE A FEELING THAT WE KNOW THE ANSWER! AS THOUGH THE CLUE WERE IN PLAIN SIGHT, AND WE COULDN'T REMEMBER...

NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT IT NOW, ***BATMAN!*** WE'VE A DATE SOMEWHERE ALONG THE UPPER THAMES RIVER--- WITH FRANK LUMARDI!

*MEANWHILE, FRANK LUMARDI AND HIS MEN APPROACH AN OLD HULK OF A PRISON SHIP NOW KEPT AS AN ATTRACTION FOR TOURISTS...*

WE GOT YOUR MESSAGE, LUMARDI! BUT THERE AIN'T NOTHIN' WORTH ROBBIN' HERE! JUST THAT OLD PRISON SHIP...

THE OWNER DOESN'T BELIEVE IN BANKS! ALL THE ADMISSION MONEY HE'S COLLECTED FOR YEARS FROM TOURISTS IS KEPT IN AN OLD SEA-TRUNK! CAPTAIN PERCY IS QUITE A WELL KNOWN LOCAL CHARACTER!

NO MORE CUSTOMERS! WE'RE CLOSED FOR THE NIGHT!

YOU'LL OPEN FOR US, CAP'N!

HERE'S MY ADMISSION TICKET--- AND IT CAN PUNCH PLENTY OF HOLES IN YOU!

SHOW US WHERE THE DOUGH IS--- AND BE QUICK ABOUT IT!

CAPTAIN PERCY LEADS THE WAY TO THE DANK HOLD OF THE PRISON SHIP...

IT'S EVERY CENT I'VE SAVED, MATES! YOU WOULDN'T TAKE MY LAST GUINEA, WOULD YE?

THERE'S A FORTUNE IN THIS BATTERED OLD SEA TRUNK! AND WE DON'T NEED A KEY TO BLAST THE PADLOCK OPEN!

LEAVING THE OLD CAPTAIN BOUND AND GAGGED, THE CROOKS FLEE THROUGH A ROOM WHERE PRISONERS WERE ONCE MANACLED TO THEIR OARS!

BATMAN AND ROBIN! Y-YOU'RE HERE!

WE HEARD THE GUNFIRE, LUMARDI! THANKS FOR TELLING US YOUR EXACT WHEREABOUTS!

♪ ROW, ROW, ROW THE BOAT... ♪

GO AHEAD AND LAUGH, **BATMAN!** ONE BURST WILL RIDDLE YOU LIKE A.... **YOW!**

METHINKS THESE LINKS WILL LAND YOU IN THE CLINK!

AS THE TIDE OF BATTLE SHIFTS TOWARD THE HARD-HITTING **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**...

THEY'RE RUNNING FOR COVER! I'LL LASH THIS ONE TO THE MAST FOR SAFE KEEPING!

AND I'LL GO AFTER LUMARDI!

YOU'RE UNARMED, **BATMAN!** STAY BACK, OR I'LL KILL YOU!

GETTING NERVOUS, LUMARDI? IF YOU'RE SO SURE YOU CAN KILL ME, WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?

ONTO THE CAMPUS OF OXFORD FLEES THE PANICKY GANG CHIEFTAIN!

OKAY, BATMAN! YOU ASKED FOR IT! BLAST IT! MY TOMMY GUN JAMMED!

I'LL ADD THAT REMARK TO FAMOUS LAST WORDS OF CRIMINALS I HAVE KNOWN!

CLICK

YOU HAVEN'T CAUGHT ME YET, BATMAN!

JUST A MATTER OF TIME, LUMARDI! YOU HAVEN'T GOT A WEAPON NOW!

AS BATMAN RACES FORWARD, A TUG ON THE ROPE SENDS THE MASSIVE BELL SWINGING TO MEET HIM!

UP INTO THE TOWER WHERE THE BOOMING GREAT BELL RINGS ITS SONOROUS SUMMONS TO OXFORD STUDENTS...

END OF THE TRAIL, LUMARDI!

DON'T COUNT YOUR GONGS UNTIL THEY'VE RUNG, BATMAN!

BONG!

HA-HA! THAT TAKES CARE OF YOU!

BONG

OHHHH! ONLY THE EDGE OF THAT SEVEN-TON MONSTER CLIPPED ME--- OR I'D BE DEAD NOW! GOT TO PULL MYSELF TOGETHER... GOT TO... OR LUMARDI WILL ESCAPE!

BONG BONG BONG BONG BONG BONG

BUT AS FRANK LUMARDI FLEES FROM THE BELL TOWER...

OH, NO! I---I THOUGHT THEY DIDN'T ALLOW GUNS IN LONDON! D-DON'T SHOOT! I SURRENDER!

READY... AIM...

AND WHEN BATMAN AND ROBIN ARRIVE...

WE'RE THE OXONIAN RIFLE SQUAD--- AND WE WERE HOLDING PRACTICE DRILL ON THE CAMPUS! WE DIDN'T MEAN TO FRIGHTEN HIM!

FRANK LUMARDI USED GUNS TO START A REIGN OF TERROR IN LONDON! IT'S ONLY FITTING THAT *GUNS* SHOULD HAVE BEEN HIS UNDOING!

LATER, WITH FRANK LUMARDI AND HIS HENCHMEN SAFE IN THE HANDS OF THE LAW...

YOU'VE BEEN OF INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE TO US HERE AT SCOTLAND YARD! MAY I SAY THAT YOU'VE BOTH LIVED UP TO YOUR SPLENDID REPUTATION!

ER... IF OUR REPUTATION HERE IS SO GOOD, WHY IS IT THAT YOU ORDERED OUR PORTRAIT TAKEN DOWN? WE'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT OFFENDED YOU, INSPECTOR?

BUT YOU HAVEN'T OFFENDED ME AT ALL, ***BATMAN!*** I NEVER TOOK DOWN YOUR PORTRAIT! IT MYSTERIOUSLY ***DISAPPEARED*** FROM ITS PLACE OF HONOR A SHORT TIME AFTER IT WAS DONATED TO US BY A CERTAIN CHESTER GLEEK!

B-BUT WHY WERE YOU UNWILLING TO DISCUSS THE REASON BEFORE?

PROFESSIONAL PRIDE, ***BATMAN!*** THE DISAPPEARANCE OF YOUR PORTRAIT IS THE ONLY MYSTERY SCOTLAND YARD NEVER HAS BEEN ABLE TO SOLVE! NATURALLY, I DON'T LIKE TO TALK ABOUT OUR FAILURES --- ALTHOUGH I ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM!

SAY, CHESTER GLEEK GAVE YOU THAT PORTRAIT! AND I SAW A PORTRAIT OF US ON THE WALL IN HIS IMITATION ***BATCAVE!*** LET'S GO TO SEE HIM RIGHT AWAY!

AND IN CHESTER GLEEK'S HOME THE MYSTERY IS FINALLY EXPLAINED...

I ORIGINALLY DONATED THIS PORTRAIT TO SCOTLAND YARD ON THE PROMISE THAT IT WOULD OCCUPY A ***SPECIAL*** PLACE OF HONOR! THEN I DISCOVERED TO MY DISMAY THAT YOU WERE HANGING IT ALONGSIDE SUCH ***INFERIOR*** SLEUTHS AS SHERLOCK HOLMES! SO I RETURNED ONE DAY, TOOK BACK THE PORTRAIT, AND HUNG IT HERE!

UH... CHESTER GLEEK IS A ***VERY GREAT*** ADMIRER OF OURS, INSPECTOR!

CAN'T SAY I BLAME HIM, ***BATMAN!*** YOU'VE HELPED TO CLEAR UP SCOTLAND YARD'S ONLY UNSOLVED MYSTERY! WE CAN ARRANGE FOR ANOTHER PORTRAIT OF BOTH OF YOU TO HANG IN OUR GALLERY OF HONOR!

I'LL BE GLAD TO DONATE IT--- ***PROVIDED*** YOU'LL PUT IT IN A PLACE WHERE IT BELONGS! AFTER ALL, THERE'S NEVER BEEN ANYONE THE EQUAL OF... ***BATMAN*** AND ***ROBIN!***

THE END

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from BATMAN No. 78 (AUG.-SEPT., 1953).

# BATMAN and ROBIN

PERHAPS NO GROUP OF LAWMEN IN ALL THE WORLD HAS HAD AS COLORFUL AND EXCITING A HISTORY AS THE **ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE!** THESE ARE THE TROOPERS WHO "ALWAYS GET THEIR MAN"--WHO PATROL THE BLEAK AND FROZEN NORTH WITH A GRIMNESS OF PURPOSE THAT HAS BECOME A LEGEND. IMAGINE, THEN, THE EXCITEMENT, WHEN FATE MAKES **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** TEAM UP WITH THESE RUGGED MOUNTIES! THEIR MISSION--TO BRING BACK ALIVE THE NOTORIOUS LECLERC BROTHERS! IT HAPPENS IN THE STORY CALLED...

BOB KANE

## "BATMAN of the MOUNTIES!"

ON A BRIGHT WINTRY DAY IN NORTHERN CANADA, TROOPERS OF THE *ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE* EAGERLY AWAIT SOME IMPORTANT VISITORS!

*BATMAN* AND *ROBIN*! I DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE COMING!

SURE! THEY'RE TO BE OUR GUESTS FOR NATIONAL LAW-ENFORCEMENT WEEK!

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNT

WELCOME

BATMAN and ROB

AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN THE GOTHAM CITY HOME OF MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE, AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON... ②

THEN IT'S ALL SET? WE CAN FLY TO CANADA TONIGHT?

RIGHT! I'VE JUST MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR "BRUCE WAYNE" TO VISIT AN OLD AUNT IN VIRGINIA! THAT WILL EXPLAIN OUR ABSENCE WHILE WE'RE IN CANADA AS *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN*!

THEN, AS THE TWO DARING CRIME-FIGHTERS DESCEND A SECRET STAIRCASE TO THE FAMED *BAT-CAVE*...

MIGHT AS WELL TAKE OUR WHITE *SNOW UNIFORMS*-- NEVER CAN TELL WHEN WE MAY NEED THEM!

BOY! I SURE THINK IT'S SWELL OF COMMISSIONER GORDON TO ARRANGE ALL THIS, IN THE SPIRIT OF CANADIAN-AMERICAN LAW-ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION!

③

AND THAT EVENING...

MEN--I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU! *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* HAVE CONSENTED TO GIVE US A DEMONSTRATION OF THEIR UNIQUE CRIME-FIGHTING METHODS! WE'LL ASSEMBLE AT TEN TOMORROW MORNING!

THAT'S FOR US!

HAY! GOOD OLD BATMAN!

COME

BATM ROBIN

⑤

THE NEXT AFTERNOON, A STRANGE SIGHT GREETS THE AWED EYES OF EXPECTANT "MOUNTIES"... ④

LOOK AT THAT, WILL YOU? IT'S THE *BATPLANE* WE'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT!

HURRY! SOMEONE TELL THE COMMANDANT *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* ARE HERE!

BUT, ABRUPTLY, A GRIM MESSAGE MARS THE GALA FESTIVITIES...

BAD NEWS, SIR! THE LECLERC BROTHERS HAVE BROKEN OUT OF JAIL IN QUEBEC! THEY'RE REPORTED TO BE HEADED THIS WAY!

THAT *IS* BAD! BUT WE MUST ACT FAST! HAVE TROOPER JASON REPORT TO MY OFFICE IMMEDIATELY!

⑥

SOON AFTER...

JASON, YOU'RE THE LOGICAL MAN TO BRING IN THE LECLERC BROTHERS! YOU KNOW THEM WELL! TAKE WHATEVER MEN YOU NEED-- AND *GOOD LUCK!*

IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU, SIR--I WON'T NEED ANY HELP! I'VE A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH THE LECLERCS--AND I'LL SETTLE IT ALONE!

1

AND NEXT MORNING, EVEN AS *BATMAN* AND *ROBIN* MAKE READY TO BEGIN THEIR DEMONSTRATION...

2

A BRAVE MAN, *ROBIN!* TYPICAL OF THE STUFF THESE MOUNTIES ARE MADE OF! NO WONDER THEY ALWAYS GET THEIR MAN!

SO LONG, JASON! GOOD LUCK!

GO GET 'EM, BOB!

THEN, AS THE DEMONSTRATION BEGINS--TO THE DELIGHT OF THE ASSEMBLED TROOPERS!

WOW! LOOK AT THEM HANDLE THAT *SILKEN CORD!*

3

4

TERRIFIC! THE WAY THE *BATPLANE* BECAME A *HELICOPTER* AND THE WAY *BATMAN* DIVED FOR THAT LADDER!

NO WONDER THE CROOKS IN GOTHAM CITY HAVE SUCH A HARD TIME! WOW!

5

LOOK! *ROBIN'S* EXPLODED A *GAS PELLET* FROM HIS *UTILITY BELT!*

AND *BATMAN'S* USED THE *BAT-ARANG* TO DISLODGE THOSE HORSESHOES! THAT'S FAST THINKING! I NEVER EVEN NOTICED THOSE HORSESHOES UP THERE!

3

THOROUGHLY THRILLED BY THE *LAWMEN,* THE CANADIAN MOUNTIES GIVE THEM A ROUSING OVATION! AND A FEW DAYS LATER...

GOODBYE, *BATMAN!* IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE HAVING YOU HERE!

YOU CAN BE SURE THE FEELING IS MUTUAL, SIR! *ROBIN* AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WE CAN COME BACK!

6

AN IRONIC WISH, FOR, SCARCELY FORTY MINUTES LATER, AS THE *BATPLANE* STREAKS HOMEWARD...

***BATMAN--LOOK!*** THE BODY OF A MAN--DOWN IN THAT CLEARING!

WE'D BETTER TAKE A LOOK! GET READY TO BREAK OUT THE AUXILIARY HELICOPTER ASSEMBLY!

MINUTES LATER...

WHY--IT'S TROOPER BOB JASON--AND HE'S BADLY WOUNDED!

LECLERCS... AMBUSH! TOOK MY HORSE... LEFT ME TO DIE... GOTTA GET THEM!

***ROBIN!*** FIRST AID ISN'T ENOUGH. THIS MAN NEEDS AN ***IMMEDIATE TRANSFUSION!*** WE'VE GOT TO RUSH HIM BACK TO THE POST!

NO--NO! TOOK ME DAYS TO FIND LECLERCS--THEIR TRAIL STILL FRESH--MUST FOLLOW! IF YOU DROP TRAIL NOW, MAY NEVER FIND AGAIN! THEY... MUSTN'T ESCAPE!

***BATMAN***--YOU'RE A GOOD COP--MAKE YOU DEPUTY MOUNTIE--I HAVE AUTHORITY! LET ***ROBIN*** FLY PLANE--YOU FOLLOW LECLERCS! HERE--MY INSIGNIA--MAKE IT OFFICIAL!

IT MAKES SENSE, ***ROBIN!*** YOU FLY HIM BACK, THEN CONTACT ME VIA OUR BELT-RADIOS! I'LL GIVE YOU MY LOCATION THEN, AND YOU CAN JOIN ME!

AND A FEW MOMENTS LATER...

BUT ***BATMAN***--YOU ***MUST*** TAKE MY GUN! LECLERCS COLD KILLERS--GIVE YOU NO CHANCE!

I NEVER USE A GUN, BOB! AND DON'T WORRY--WE MOUNTIES ***ALWAYS GET OUR MAN!*** OKAY, ***ROBIN***--TAKE HER UP!

AND SO IT IS THAT ***BATMAN***, A THOUSAND MILES FROM HOME, TAKES ON ONE OF HIS TOUGHEST ASSIGNMENTS--IN THE BEST TRADITIONS OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE.'

THE TRAIL LEADS ACROSS THIS FROZEN LAKE! I'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST TO CLOSE THE GAP! HMMM! I'M GETTING AN IDEA!

A MOMENT LATER, QUICKLY LASHING SOME LOGS TOGETHER WITH HIS SILKEN CORD...

WITH A BRISK WIND, AND MY CAPE ACTING AS A SAIL--THIS MAKES A PRETTY FAIR ICE-BOAT! AND IT SURE BEATS WALKING!

1

SOON AFTER...

HMM! PINE NEEDLES, FRESHLY RIPPED OFF THIS BRANCH-- THE SAP IS STILL GUMMY! THEY'VE COME THIS WAY, ALL RIGHT!

2

MEANWHILE, BACK AT MOUNTIE HEADQUARTERS...

3

YOUR PROMPT ACTION SAVED JASON'S LIFE! BUT I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF YOU AND **BATMAN** FIGHTING THE DANGEROUS LECLERCS WITHOUT WEAPONS! IT'S OUR JOB! I'LL SEND SOME MEN WITH YOU!

SIR! A RADIO MESSAGE! FLOOD DISASTER AT ST. LAURIE! THE WHOLE TOWN IS IMPERILED!

HELPLESS TO DO OTHERWISE, THE COMMANDANT ACCEPTS **ROBIN'S** SUGGESTION. AND THEN, AS WORD OF THIS FILTERS BACK TO THE STOCKADE...

THIS IS TERRIBLE! WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO BE RESCUED! THEY WANT ME TO SEND EVERY AVAILABLE MAN! I'M CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO FIRES!

NO, SIR! SEND ALL YOUR MEN TO ST. LAURIE! **BATMAN** AND I CAN HANDLE THE LECLERCS!

4

HAW! LOOK WHO'S GONNA BRING BACK THE LECLERC BOYS! WHY, YOU PUNK KID-- THEY'LL EAT YOU UP ALIVE! HAW!

IMAGINE ANYONE GOIN' AFTER THE LECLERCS WITHOUT GUNS! I ONLY WISH I COULD BE THERE WHEN **BATMAN** GETS IT IN THE NECK!

SO LONG, CHUMP! I JUST THOUGHT YOU OUGHTTA KNOW THAT REMY LECLERC IS THE GREATEST KNIFE-THROWER IN ALL CANADA! HAW!

AND HIS KID BROTHER, PIERRE, CAN SHOOT THE WHISKERS OFF A WOLF AT 200 YARDS! BETTER DRAW UP YOUR WILL NOW, KID! HAW!

6

5

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, IN THE MAKESHIFT CAMP OF THE LECLERC BROTHERS ABOVE THE MOUNTAIN SNOW-LINE...

REMY! LOOK! IS THAT A GIANT BAT?

NO, YOU FOOL! THAT IS THE MAN CALLED ***BATMAN!*** SOMEHOW HE IS ON OUR TRAIL! BUT NO FEAR! HE CARRIES NO WEAPONS! OUR GUNS WILL RIP HIM TO RIBBONS!

BUT THEN, WHEN THE DESPERADOS HAVE CLAMBERED UP THE HILL, AFTER PUMPING BULLET AFTER BULLET INTO THE ***BATMAN*** FIGURE...

DRAT! WE HAVE BEEN TRICKED! IT IS ONLY A TREE!

HE PLAYS GAMES WITH US! BAH! I WILL TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN KILLING THIS PIG!

BANG! BANG! BANG!

NOW THAT I'VE FOUND THEM, I'VE GOT TO PLAY CAT-AND-MOUSE UNTIL ***ROBIN*** ARRIVES AND WE CAN FIND SOME WAY TO CLOSE IN! HE SHOULD BE HERE SOON! OH-OH! THERE GOES THE RADIO AGAIN!

***ROBIN*** TO ***BATMAN!*** ***BATPLANE*** CONKED OUT! FASTEST WAY TO YOU NOW IS BY WAY OF SILVER RIVER! HAVE NO BOAT. WILL CATCH RIDE ON LOG! OVER!

BUT ALL AT ONCE...

WORSE LUCK! THE SQUAWKING OF THE RADIO SCARED THOSE BIRDS--AND NOW THEY'VE GIVEN AWAY MY POSITION! I'VE GOT TO MOVE OUT OF HERE -- AND FAST! BUT HOW?

BANG! BANG! BANG!

SUDDENLY, AN IDEA COMES TO THE RESOURCEFUL LAWMAN...

NICE HEAVY BIRCH BARK! SHOULD BE JUST WHAT THE OCCASION NEEDS!

BANG! BANG!

AND A FEW MINUTES LATER...

THE BARK MAKES EXCELLENT SKIS--WITH STRING FROM MY UTILITY BELT AS BINDINGS! I DON'T THINK THEIR BULLETS WILL FIND ME NOW--PARTICULARLY WITH MY SNOW UNIFORM AS CAMOUFLAGE!

WHERE DID HE GET SKIS!? AND HOW CAN I SHOOT HIM WHEN I CAN BARELY SEE HIM!?

LATER, AS *BATMAN* HEADS FOR SILVER RIVER AND HIS RENDEZVOUS WITH *ROBIN*...

I MANAGED TO SKI ALL THE WAY TO THE LE-CLERC CAMP, AND STAMPEDE THEIR HORSES! THAT WILL KEEP THEM WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE UNTIL *ROBIN* ARRIVES--WHICH SHOULD BE ANY MOMENT!

MEANWHILE *ROBIN'S* ATTEMPT TO ELUDE THE LECLERC BROTHERS PROVES FUTILE... EVEN THROUGH HIS SWITCH TO HIS SNOW UNIFORM AS CAMOUFLAGE!

THERE'S *ROBIN*! BUT THE LECLERCS HAVE SPOTTED HIM--AND UNLESS I CAN GET THERE FIRST, THE KID WON'T HAVE A CHANCE AGAINST THOSE KNIVES!

MOVING LIKE THE WIND, *BATMAN* DARTS FOR THE LOG-CHUTE NEARBY. AND THEN ...

LUCKY I FOUND A SMALL LOG AT THE TOP OF THE CHUTE! I COULDN'T HAVE BUDGED ONE OF THE BIG ONES!

GOOD GOING, *BATMAN*! YOU MAKE IT SEEM AS EASY AS FALLING OFF A LOG!

COME ON, *ROBIN*! WE'VE STILL GOT A FIGHT ON OUR HANDS!

IT'S *BATMAN*--COMING DOWN THE CHUTE!

THEN, AS THE *DYNAMIC DUO* ENGAGES IN ONE OF THE WEIRDEST FIGHTS EVER...

JUST AS I THOUGHT! TAKE AWAY THEIR GUNS AND KNIVES AND THEY'RE JUST A COUPLE OF ORDINARY HOODLUMS!

THIS ONE IS FOR A MOUNTIE NAMED JASON--REMEMBER!?

ENOUGH, *BATMAN*--DON'T DUCK ME AGAIN! WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH--WE SURRENDER. MY ARM--I THINK IT IS BROKEN--WE SURRENDER!

OKAY, *ROBIN*--LET'S GET THESE SAD-LOOKING CUT-THROATS ASHORE, AND FIGURE OUR NEXT MOVE...

LATER... I'D LOVE TO LEAVE THEM HERE-- THE WAY THEY LEFT JASON-- BUT I SUPPOSE IT'S OUR DUTY TO GET THEM BACK, EVEN THOUGH IT'S GOING TO BE A ROUGH TREK...

YES. THE EMERGENCY RATIONS IN OUR UTILITY BELTS SHOULD CARRY US TO WHERE YOU CRASH-LANDED THE ***BAT-PLANE***. THERE ARE PLENTY OF PROVISIONS ABOARD--AND IT SHOULDN'T TAKE US TOO LONG TO REPAIR THE PLANE...

AND SO BEGINS THE ARDUOUS TRIP BACK--AT ONCE COMPLICATED BY A SUDDEN, DRIVING BLIZZARD!

WE WILL ALL DIE! ONE CANNOT MARCH THROUGH ALL THIS SNOW! IF WE ONLY HAD SNOW-SHOES!

SNOWSHOES! HMMM! THERE MUST BE A WAY...

A MOMENT LATER, BEFORE THE AMAZED EYES OF THE LECLERC BROTHERS...

YOU SAID SNOWSHOES--AND SNOWSHOES WE SHALL HAVE! OUR SILKEN CORDS MAKE EXCELLENT WEBBING-- AND THERE ARE PLENTY OF SAPLINGS TO PROVIDE US WITH FRAMES!

AMAZING! THIS I HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE!

ALL DAY THE LITTLE BAND STRUGGLES THROUGH THE FOREST. AND AS DUSK APPROACHES...

HMM. THE REMAINS OF A STONE CABIN, AND STRANGELY ENOUGH, ITS WINDOWS ARE STILL INTACT. NOT MUCH OF A SHELTER, BUT IT'S THE BEST WE HAVE! WE'LL CAMP HERE TONIGHT!

A WOLF-PACK! LISTEN TO THEM HOWL! SO MANY--AND SO HUNGRY!

LATER... WE'RE IN TROUBLE, ***BATMAN!*** WE'LL NEED A BIG FIRE TO KEEP THOSE WOLVES AWAY--AND IN THIS BLIZZARD, FIREWOOD JUST CAN'T BE FOUND!

WAIT, ***ROBIN!*** MAYBE WE CAN FOOL THOSE WOLVES! I'VE GOT AN IDEA!

QUICKLY, ***BATMAN*** REMOVES THE WINDOWS FROM THE STONE WALL! AND THEN...

THESE WINDOW PANES WILL REFLECT THE FLAMES--MAKING IT APPEAR AS THOUGH WE HAD THREE FIRES! THAT SHOULD HOLD THOSE WOLVES!

IT HAS--THEY'VE RETREATED ALREADY! VERY NEAT!

NEXT DAY THE WEARY TRAVELERS PUSH ON AGAIN--AND THEN, IN THE LATE AFTERNOON...

AHHH! IF EVER THERE WAS A WELCOME SIGHT, THIS IS IT.'

NICE NAVIGATING, ROBIN! YOUR COMPASS BEARINGS WERE PERFECT--LED US RIGHT TO THE SPOT. NOW-LET'S SEE HOW FAST WE CAN FIX THAT PLANE.'

AND AN HOUR LATER...

THAT DOES IT, BATMAN! SHE'S READY TO FLY NOW.'

BATMAN! COME QUICK! MY BROTHER HAS THE HEART ATTACK.'

IN A MOMENT, BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE AT THE STRICKEN CRIMINAL'S SIDE--ONLY TO FIND THEY'VE WALKED INTO A TRAP!

FOOLS! MY HAND WAS NEVER INJURED! IT IS AN OLD LECLERC TRICK! WE JUST WAITED FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT!

BATMAN! HE'S STIRRED ASHES INTO MY EYES! CAN'T SEE.'

QUICKLY! LET'S GET 'EM!

IN ONE BLINDING MOMENT OF TREACHERY, THE LAWMEN ARE SMASHED ON THE HEAD, AND THE TABLES ARE TURNED.'

NEVER MIND HUNTING FOR THE KEY TO THESE HANDCUFFS! THEY MAY HAVE A SECRET HIDING PLACE.' I'LL SMASH THE CUFFS WITH THIS ROCK!

BIEN! AND THEN, BROTHER, I TRUST YOU WILL GIVE ME THE HONOR OF KILLING THESE TWO PIGS MYSELF!

SECONDS LATER...

NO--WE DO NOT KILL THEM--THEY ARE MORE VALUABLE ALIVE! WE HOLD THEM AS HOSTAGES--WE CONTACT COMMANDER DOUGLAS--MAKE HIM FREE EVERY PRISONER IN STOCKADE! WITH THESE MEN, WE RULE ALL CANADA! THEN WE KILL BATMAN!

BUT THIS BATMAN--NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN HIS FACE! I--PIERRE LECLERC--WILL BE THE FIRST TO DO SO! I WILL PULL OFF HIS MASK!

NO! IF BATMAN'S IDENTITY IS KNOWN, HE CAN NO LONGER BE BATMAN! IF HE IS NO LONGER BATMAN, HE IS NOT IMPORTANT HOSTAGE! NO! THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF TIME LATER TO REMOVE THE MASK!

ALL RIGHT! BUT I WILL TAKE AWAY THESE UTILITY BELTS, SO THAT WE HAVE NO TRICKS! THEN TONIGHT, WE HAVE GOOD SLEEP, EH? AND TOMORROW WE MAKE THE BIG ONE FLY US BACK, OR ELSE WE KILL THE LITTLE ONE, EH? AHH--THIS IS MORE LIKE IT.'

BUT THAT NIGHT, WHEN THE WEARY BROTHERS HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP, CONTENT THAT THEIR PRISONERS CANNOT ESCAPE...

**ROBIN**--I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING! THE COLLAR INSIGNIA THAT BOB JASON GAVE ME! IT'S UNDER MY UNIFORM--REACH IN AND SEE IF YOU CAN GET IT!

YES! I FEEL IT! I'LL HAVE IT OUT IN A MOMENT! BUT--WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH THAT?

IN A MOMENT, **ROBIN** HAS HANDED **BATMAN** THE INSIGNIA! IN THE NEXT MOMENT, **BATMAN** REACHES BEHIND HIM UNTIL HE FINDS A ROCK! AND THEN!...

THIS INSIGNIA IS FAIRLY THIN! BY RUBBING IT AGAINST THIS ROCK, I CAN HONE IT DOWN TO KNIFE-EDGE!-THEN I CAN CUT MY WAY OUT OF THESE ROPES--AND FREE YOU, TOO!

SCRAPE

AFTER LONG MINUTES OF SCRAPING METAL AGAINST ROCK, **BATMAN** IS TRIUMPHANT. THE KNIFE-EDGE SLICES THROUGH THE BONDS--AND MOMENTS AFTER...

SACRE BLEU! WHAT HAS HAPPENED?!

WE'VE GOT A FEW TRICKS, TOO, MY FRIEND! AND JUST ONE TOO MANY FOR YOU!

AND NEXT DAY, WHEN THE **BATPLANE** ALIGHTS AT MOUNTIE HEADQUARTERS...

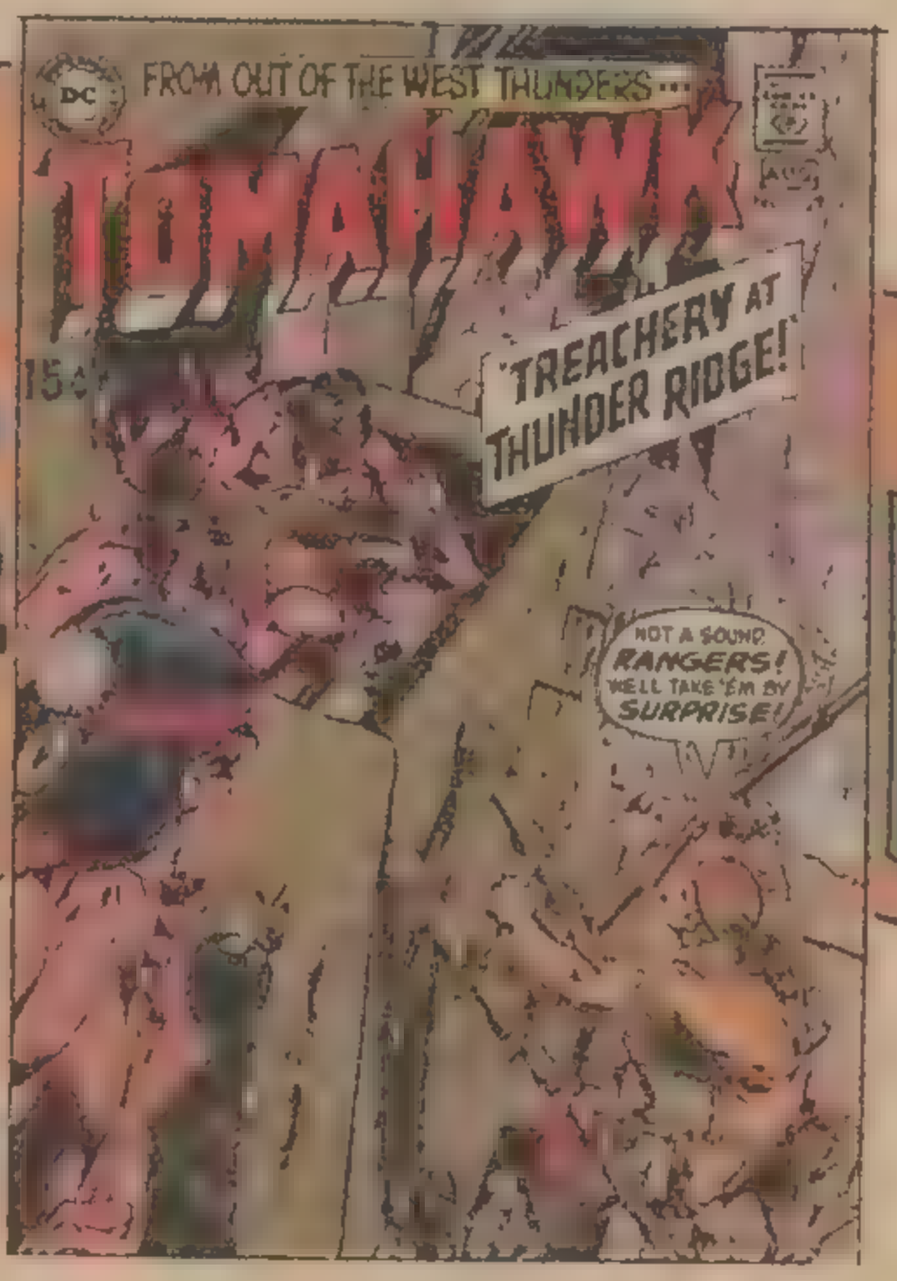
**BATMAN**! WE JUST RETURNED OURSELVES--I WAS READYING A SQUAD TO GO FIND YOU! BUT I SEE YOU DON'T NEED IT! YOU'RE A TRUE MOUNTIE! YOU BROUGHT BACK YOUR MAN! HOW ABOUT STAYING ON WITH US PERMANENTLY?

NO, THANK YOU, SIR! I WANT TO GO SEE TROOPER JASON--TELL HIM THE WONDERFUL NEWS--AND THEN **ROBIN** AND I ARE HEADED BACK TO THE COMPARATIVE PEACE AND QUIET OF GOTHAM CITY'S UNDERWORLD.

THE END

10

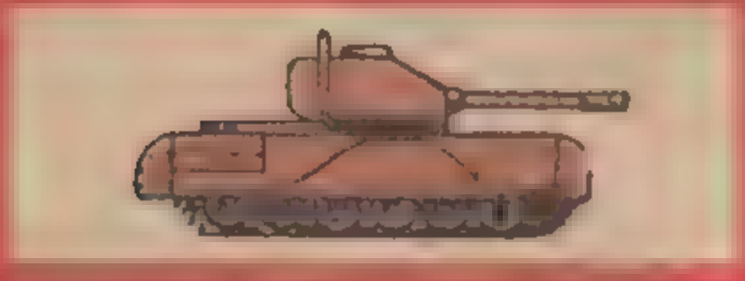

MORE FOR YOUR MONEY...

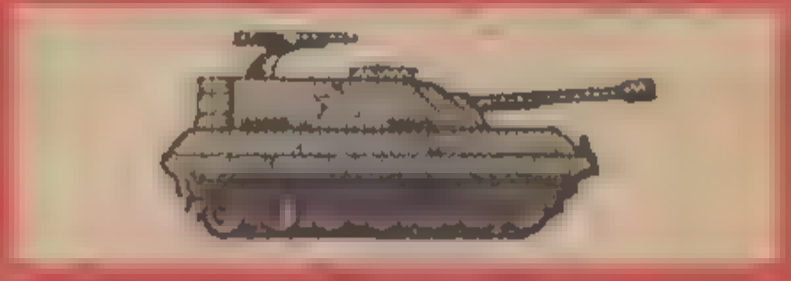



...AND BETTER

# THE TANKS THAT MADE MILITARY HISTORY

## AND THEY'RE ALL HERE FROM AURORA





# AURORA

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Dear Editor:

Let me start from the top for my description of your latest GIANT BATMAN. The cover, done by Murphy Anderson (I caught his barely legible signature in the rocks), was good. You ought to make him a regular Batman artist. The insides were good, too. An excellent choice of stories, Mr. Bridwell. But next time give us only four or five long stories instead of six short ones. All in all, this was a good issue. My congratulations.

—Keith Griffin, Mobile, Ala.

*(How does this issue strike you, Keith? Only five longer stories! As for Murphy, he's working on a Jimmy Olsen tale which will co-star Robin. Looks mighty good!—Ed.)*

• • • • • •

Dear Editor:

In "The Hand from Nowhere," on page 8, a person is coming out of the thumb of the giant hand. Yet, if you will look on page 1 of that story, you can see that the thumb is too small to hold anyone, while on page 6, it is big enough for two people. What caused this sudden growth?

—Waldemar Golebiewski, Ozone Park, N.Y.

*(Obviously, THUMB-body goofed!—Ed.)*

• • • • • •

Dear Editor:

I sort of semi-consider myself to be somewhat of an expert on Batman. I have followed the adventures of this intriguing comic-book crusader faithfully—nay, ardently—for the past four years, and have made countless attempts to dig into his 30-year past for more knowledge. His artists, his writers, his legend, his supporting characters, his arch-enemies...I know them all. Unfortunately, the very early issues are priced staggeringly high, and, without the means of shelling out a couple of hundred bucks for one old comic, I am in the dark as to Batman's beginning years of crime-fighting. Therefore, what I relish most in your twice-annual BATMAN GIANTS are the very old stories of the early '40's. The reprint of Batman's debut story in DETECTIVE #387 was tremendous, as was Alfred's origin in GIANT #213. Nearly as interesting are the new artists' renderings of old stories, as with Gil Kane in GIANT #208. Please try to feature the really ancient stories—whether in original or new art—as often as possible. What really devastated me in #218 was your piquant comment that originally, "the Dynamic Duo occasionally acted in a way contrary to their code." My morbid curiosity is, I admit, devouring me. What did Batman and Robin ever do that would be contrary to their code? I read the Joker story from BATMAN #1, which was reprinted in Feiffer's *The Great Comic Book Heroes*, and nothing was said or done by either of our Gotham Gallants that would suggest the slightest deviation from a strict set of morals or ethics.

—Steve Beery, Alma, Mich.

*(Okay, here are the facts—in the beginning, Batman carried a gun! And sometimes he and Robin actually killed! For this reason, the Masked Manhunter was himself hunted by the police for taking the law into his own hands. Wiser editorial heads prevailed, however, and the Caped Crime-fighters adopted an anti-gun, anti-killing code—and began to work with the police instead of dodging them.—Ed.)*

• • • • • •

Dear Editor:

I liked The Strangest Cases from Batman's Crime-File. But the Batmobile didn't look right. There were two kinds in that issue. One looked like an old hardtop, and the other had a siren or light on a glass bubble-top. If you watch the TV show, you know how it really looks.

—Keith Waits, Louisville, Ky.

*(You mean how one of the past Batmobiles looked. Since he started using a "powerful roadster" that was unmarked in the early tales, Batman has often changed his vehicle to keep up with the times. And his latest runabout, which you'll see him using now in BATMAN and DETECTIVE, is different from any of the others.*—Ed.)

• • • • • •

Dear Editor:

In "The Man Who Couldn't Be Tried Twice," Batman said "Minus Q" referred to the one place where every letter in the alphabet is used except Q, the telephone dial. I don't know about Gotham City's phones, but mine is also missing the letter Z. So I think Batman should do a little more calling on other phones than the Hot-Line. He may learn something.

—Anthony Bonavolente, Melrose Park, Ill.

*(We'll try to do alphabetter in the future.—Ed.)*

• • • • • •

Dear Editor:

In "The Man Who Couldn't Be Tried Twice," you have a paraffin cast of Lee's gun hand. But if he had his palm down, this is a cast of his *left* hand. And later, you show him shooting with his *right* hand! How do you explain this?

—Dave Rands, Pompano Beach, Fla.

*(We can't. But then, we don't really have to. Most of the old Batman stories we reprint were written and drawn many years before we came to work at DC. So, though we try to fix errors when we can, we still have the consolation of knowing it was somebody else who made these particular goofs in the first place. —Ed.)*

• • • • • •

Dear Editor:

The Sunday Newspaper Syndicated Story in GIANT BATMAN #218 was the highlight of the entire issue. Do you plan to reprint any more in the near future? I enjoy all your BATMAN reprints. Some I read when they first came out, years ago, and I could kick myself in the rear for not keeping them. Of course, that was before I became a comic collector.

—Wes Smith, Paw Paw, Mich.

*(We have another Syndicated Story in this issue—but we made it easier to read by reserving two pages for each Sunday strip. We'll reprint more if we can dig 'em up*—but the supply is nearly exhausted, I'm afraid. *—Ed.)*

Remember, the address for all comments and suggestions in GIANT BATMAIL, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

# "The MARDI GRAS MYSTERY"

A COMPLETE SYNDICATED STRIP WHICH APPEARED IN NEWSPAPERS FROM AUGUST 6 TO SEPTEMBER 17, 1944.

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DIST. BY McCLURE NEWSPAPER SYNDICATE

BAT MAN

JANE

NICE OF THIS BAGLEY FELLOW TO INVITE US DOWN! I'M A PERFECT STRANGER TO HIM IN SPITE OF THE FACT HE KNOWS A FRATERNITY BROTHER OF MINE...

HOLY MACKEREL! WHO'S THAT HEADING TOWARD US?

MARDI GRAS FESTIVAL ... AND AMONG THE THOUSANDS OF VISITORS ARE TWO FROM GOTHAM CITY - BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON...

40 1-6

N-133

AH! MR. WAYNE, AND I SUPPOSE THIS IS YOUR WARD, DICK GRAYSON! WELCOME! I'M YOUR HOST, MR. BAGLEY... ALSO **FALSTAFF** DURING THE MARDI GRAS! HA! HA!

SO I SEE! SORRY WE'RE LATE — OUR TRAIN WAS DELAYED.

QUITE ALL RIGHT ... MR. WAYNE, MAY I PRESENT MY OTHER HOUSE GUESTS, MRS. BRIDGES AND HER NIECE, MISS LACEY...

HOW DO YOU DO?

WELCOME!

WE WERE JUST LEAVING FOR THE CARNIVAL! WE'LL SEE YOU THERE LATER — YOU CAN'T MISS ME! HA, HA! I'VE SECURED BATMAN AND ROBIN COSTUMES FOR YOU BECAUSE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE A MAN AND BOY AND ALSO COME FROM GOTHAM CITY! APPROPRIATE, EH? HA! HA!

MORE APPROPRIATE THAN YOU CAN POSSIBLY IMAGINE!

TOO NEW! I LIKE MY FIGHTING CLOTHES WELL BROKEN IN! WE'LL WEAR OUR OWN COSTUMES... BESIDES, THEY'LL PROBABLY FIT BETTER!

WELL, THERE THEY ARE... SO NICE AND NEW!

Roget COSTUME CO.

Roget COSTUME CO.

ONCE DRESSED, ROBIN INSTINCTIVELY STARTS POKING ONE LEG OVER THE WINDOW SILL....

WHOA, YOUNGSTER! WE DON'T HAVE TO SNEAK OUT IN OUR SUITS THIS TIME... REMEMBER?

HUH? OH, YES...JUST FORCE OF HABIT!

WE MIGHT JUST AS WELL HAVE GONE OUT THROUGH THE WINDOW! THIS PLACE IS AS DESERTED AS A GAS STATION!

GUESS EVEN THE HELP IS AT THE MARDI GRAS! HALF THE POPULATION MUST BE THERE!

BATMAN AND ROBIN SOON WEDGE THEMSELVES IN THE PUSHING MOB OF MASKED REVELERS AT THE COLORFUL, HISTORIC MARDI GRAS!

I NEVER SAW SO MANY DIFFERENT COSTUMES IN, ALL MY LIFE!

SORT OF LIKE BEING LOST IN A HOLLYWOOD WARDROBE DEPARTMENT, ISN'T IT?

LET'S GET OUT INTO THE OPEN WHERE WE CAN *BREATHE!*

SAY, JOE...LOOK! THAT MAN'S DRESSED AS BATMAN! NOW WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT?

MR. WAYNE...TAKE THIS AND GUARD IT WITH YOUR LIFE!... THEY'RE FOLLOWIN' ME...I'LL MEET YOU LATER...

HEY, LE-BETTE, DERE'S DE SKOIT! NOW WE GOT 'ER!

NON, MONK! LET HER GO! WEETH MY OWN EYES I 'AVE SEE HER SLEEP ENVELOPE TO ZAT ONE DRESSED AS ZE BATMAN!

HE AIN'T DE REAL BATMAN— SO WHAT'RE WE WAITIN' FER? IT'LL BE A DEAD CINCH TO PUSH 'IM OVER AN' GRAB IT!

DIST BY NEA SERVICE, INC.

# BAT-MAN AND ROBIN

BOB KANE

LEBETTE, YOU WERE RIGHT! THAT LACEY DAME DID SLIP IT TO THAT GUY IN THE BATMAN COSTUME!

LEBETTE EES ALWAYS RIGHT! SEE, KLINK, EVEN NOW HE EX-AMINES EET! QUEECK, WE MUS' TAKE EET AWAY FROM HEEM!

GUESTS OF A MR. BAGLEY WHO PROVIDED THEM WITH BATMAN AND ROBIN COSTUMES FOR THE MARDI GRAS FESTIVAL, BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON ARE FURTIVELY HANDED AN ENVELOPE BY ANOTHER HOUSE GUEST, ANN LACEY—BUT HER ACTION HAS NOT BEEN UNNOTICED...

41

8-13

OKAY, BUD, HAND OVER THAT ENVELOPE...AND DON'T GO IMAGININ' YOU'RE THE REAL BATMAN AND START GETTIN' IDEAS...*SEE?!*

OH... I SEE VERY WELL...

...BUT **YOU'RE** GOING TO HAVE A TOUGH JOB WITH TWO BLACK EYES!

OW!

ROBIN! CATCH...GET GOING!

THERE MAY BE MORE OF THIS MOB AROUND—CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES WITH THIS ENVELOPE!

OOO OF!

THANKS...

...FOR

BOOM

...THE LIFT!

OW!

UGH!

MIND IF I BORROW THIS?

WOW! LOOK AT THAT!

SAY! HE'S NO IMITATION—THAT'S THE REAL BATMAN!

SOMETIME LATER...IN A SECLUDED SECTION OF THE TOWN ...

BOSS, WE DIDN'T GET THAT ENVELOPE! WE RAN INTO SOME TROUBLE!

TROUBLE, HE SAYS! WE 'AVE RUN INTO TWO PEOPLE DRESSED AS ZE BATMAN AND ROBEEN WHO FIGHT LIKE ZEM!

YES, I KNOW! I WAS NEAR BY AND SAW THE WHOLE THING!

ONLY TWO PERSONS COULD PERFORM THOSE FEATS AND FIGHT LIKE THAT! HMM... AND I GAVE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD BATMAN AND ROBIN COSTUMES! I WONDER...?? IF I FIND THE COSTUMES AND WAYNE AND THAT BOY GONE...THEN I'LL KNOW FOR CERTAIN!

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# BAT-MAN ROBIN

by BOB KANE

VISITING THE MARDI GRAS...BATMAN AND ROBIN FORESTALL AN ATTEMPT BY THREE THUGS TO TAKE THE ENVELOPE SLIPPED TO THEM BY THEIR HOST'S HOUSE GUEST, ANN LACEY. LATER, THE THUGS REPORT TO THEIR SECRET BOSS - THE HOST, MR BAGLEY...

THE WAY THOSE TWO HOPPED AROUND...AND COULD SOCK! IF YA ASK ME, THAT WAS THE REAL BATMAN AND ROBIN!

EXACTLY WHAT I WAS THINKING! AND I GAVE BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON BATMAN AND ROBIN MARDI GRAS COSTUMES! I MUST GET HOME AND CHECK UP ON THEM!

MEANWHILE...

WE GAVE THEM THE SLIP, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE EVER RUN AWAY FROM CROOKS!

THIS ENVELOPE SEEMS IMPORTANT, AND I WASN'T GOING TO TAKE ANY CHANCES ON LOSING IT! THEY MIGHT HAVE HAD MORE OF THEIR MOB AMONG THE MARDI GRAS CROWD!

SAY, I JUST REMEMBERED! WHEN THAT LACEY GIRL HANDED ME THE ENVELOPE, SHE CALLED ME MR. WAYNE. SHE THOUGHT WE WERE WEARING THE COSTUMES BAGLEY GAVE US. BUT IF SHE SAW US GO INTO OUR ACT...

...SHE'LL SUSPECT WE'RE THE REAL BATMAN AND ROBIN!

EXACTLY! AND SO WILL OUR HOST! WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK PRONTO AND GET AN ALIBI SET UP!

A SHORT WHILE LATER...

WAYNE...WHY, I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION YOU HAD GONE TO THE MARDI GRAS!

NO...DICK HAD A SLIGHT FEVER, SO WE DECIDED TO STAY IN! DID WE MISS ANYTHING!

NO-O! NOTHING MUCH!

HM-M! COSTUMES STILL NEATLY PRESSED! OBVIOUSLY NOT WORN! THEN WAYNE AND THAT BOY ARE NOT BATMAN AND ROBIN!

OH... HELLO, MR. BAGLEY! D..DID YOU HAVE A NICE TIME AT THE MARDI GRAS?

YES, I FOUND IT MOST STIMU-LATING! HA! HA!

...SHE WAS LISTEN-ING! I'LL WAGER IT ABOUT FLOORED HER WHEN SHE LEARNED WAYNE WASN'T AT THE MARDI GRAS!

WAYNE ISN'T THE BATMAN! AND I THOUGHT..! OH, DEAR, THE REAL BATMAN HAS THE ENVELOPE, AND HE WON'T KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO FIND HIM!

WHEW! THAT WAS A CLOSE SHAVE!

WE CAN'T RETURN THIS ENVELOPE TO MISS LACEY WITH-OUT REVEALING OUR IDENTITIES. SO WE'LL JUST TAKE A LOOK-SEE OURSELVES!

ANOTHER ENVELOPE INSIDE OF IT! AND IT LOOKS ANCIENT!

IT IS! THE POSTMARK DATE READS, APRIL 21, 1879! MAILED TO "BEN LUCAS, HOTEL SYCAMORE! NOW WHAT'S INSIDE *THIS* ONE!

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# BATMAN AND ROBIN

by BOB KANE

UNABLE IMMEDIATELY, WITHOUT REVEALING THEIR IDENTITIES, TO RETURN THE ENVELOPE FURTIVELY HANDED THEM AT THE MARDI GRAS BY ANN LACEY—BATMAN AND ROBIN OPEN THE MYSTERIOUS PACKET TO FIND . . .

AN ACE OF SPADES! IS THAT WHAT ALL THE FUSS WAS ABOUT?

AN ACE OF SPADES SOMETIMES SIGNIFIES DEATH! DID SOMEONE SEND IT TO MISS LACEY TO WARN HER SHE'D BE MURDERED?

HOW COULD THEY? THE CARD WAS IN THIS OLD INNER ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO "BEN LUCAS... HOTEL SYCAMORE.." LOOK AT THE POSTMARK—1879!

IT'S A PUZZLE, BUT AT LEAST WE HOLD THE ACE IN THIS GAME! WE DAREN'T CONTACT MISS LACEY, BUT IF SHE SEES US AT THE MARDI GRAS, SHE CAN CONTACT US!

YES... THAT LACEY GIRL WILL TRY TO CONTACT BATMAN SOME WAY OR OTHER, AND HE'S GOT THAT ENVELOPE... SO DON'T LET HER OUT OF YOUR SIGHT!

DON'T WORRY! LEBETTE NEVAIRE FAILS!

I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO FIND THE REAL BATMAN, BUT IF HE'S AT THE MARDI GRAS TONIGHT, I MAY BE ABLE TO HAVE HIM FIND *ME*!

MADEMOISELLE SAY SHE MUST HAVE ZE OUT-STANDING COSTUME AT ZE MARDI GRAS—SO—I GIVE IT, TO HER! HA! MADAME JOSETTE UNDERSTANDS. YOU WISH TO CATCH THE EYE OF A MAN, OUI?

...YES... A VERY SPECIAL MAN!

THAT NIGHT, AS THE JUDGES REVIEW THE CONTESTANTS FOR THE HONOR OF BEING QUEEN OF THE MARDI GRAS . . .

LOOK AT THAT GIRL OVER THERE!

EXQUISITE... AND WEARING A UNIQUE COSTUME! GENTLEMEN, WE CAN MAKE UP OUR MINDS, FAST!

JUDGE

JUDGE

ON THE EDGE OF THE THRONG, TWO NEW ARRIVALS PAUSE...

WELL, HERE WE ARE AGAIN! NOW IT'S UP TO ANN LACEY TO SPOT US!

SAY, DOESN'T THAT GIRL ON THE FLOAT LOOK FAMILIAR?

LOOK! BATMAN'S BACK AGAIN!

WHY, IT'S SHE-ANN LACEY!

DID YOU SEE HIM AND ROBIN SAIL INTO THOSE THREE MUGS THIS AFTERNOON? THEY WERE TERRIFIC!

HEY, JUDGE, HOW ABOUT BATMAN FOR KING OF THE MARDI GRAS?

WE COULDN'T FIND A BETTER ONE! YOU'RE ELECTED, BATMAN!

JUDGE

UP ON YOUR THRONE, KING, AND MEET YOUR QUEEN, MISS ANN LACEY!

I AM HONORED. YOUR COSTUME HAS CHANGED, BUT YOUR FACE IS AS BEAUTIFUL AS EVER!

THANK YOU, BATMAN! I HAD HOPED TO CONTACT YOU BY BEING ELECTED QUEEN, BUT I NEVER DREAMED IT'D WORK OUT *THIS* WELL!

I KNOW THIS IS A QUEER PLACE FOR IT, BUT NOW YOU CAN START EXPLAINING THE ACE OF SPADES! THERE'S SO MUCH YELLING, NOBODY WILL HEAR US OR SUSPECT ANYTHING!

# BATMAN AND ROBIN

by BOB KANE

ELECTED QUEEN OF THE MARDI GRAS, ANN LACEY, THE GIRL WHO HAS SLIPPED BATMAN A MYSTERIOUS ENVELOPE, IS ABLE TO DISCUSS WITH BATMAN, CHOSEN KING, THE CONTENTS OF THE ENVELOPE—AN ACE OF SPADES!

44

9-3

THAT ACE OF SPADES IS THE KEY TO BURIED TREASURE RIGHT IN THIS VICINITY!

NOW YOU'RE NOT GOING TO PULL THAT OLD ONE ABOUT JEAN LAFITTE'S PIRATE TREASURE! THAT'S ALMOST AS ANCIENT AS THE ONE ABOUT CAPTAIN KIDD!

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MISTER BATMAN, WOULD THE NAME ON THAT ENVELOPE MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU IF I SAID IT WAS **BLACKJACK** LUCAS?

YE-ES! HAZY!.. MISSISSIPPI LEGEND, WASN'T IT? HOW BLACKJACK WON A MILLION DOLLARS AND LOST IT GAMBLING WITH RIVER SPIRITS?

"NOT QUITE, BATMAN! IN 1879, BLACKJACK GAMBLED WITH TWO MEN ON A RIVER BOAT, 'THE BETTY LOU.' WHEN THE BOAT DOCKED, HE WAS WINNER OF SIXTY THOUSAND DOLLARS!"

GOIN' TO GIVE US A CHANCE TO WIN BACK SOME OF THAT ON LAND?

SORRY, GENTLEMEN. THE GAME'S OVER!

"THAT NIGHT, AS BLACKJACK STEPPED OFF THE BOAT, THE GAMBLERS AMBUSHED HIM! WITH TREMBLING FINGERS THEY OPENED THE CARPET BAG TO FIND IT WAS—"

EMPTY!

POLICE CAUGHT THE MURDERERS AND HANGED THEM, BUT THE MYSTERY REMAINED! SOMEHOW, SIXTY THOUSAND DOLLARS HAD DISAPPEARED!

HM-M! AND HOW DID YOU GET THE ENVELOPE?

I FOUND IT AT THE SYCAMORE HOTEL, WHICH I INHERITED, IN A PILE WITH OTHER ENVELOPES MARKED "UNCALLED FOR"... WHEN I ACCEPTED MR. BAGLEY'S INVITATION, I BROUGHT IT WITH ME... THEN THOSE THUGS CAME AFTER ME AND I SLIPPED IT TO YOU!

WHY... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I NOTICED THIS CARD SEEMED ABNORMALLY THICK! THE WAY I SEE IT, BLACKJACK SUSPECTED THE MEN WOULD TRY TO ROB HIM, SO HE CACHED THE MONEY... AND MAILED THIS CARD TO HIMSELF AT THE SYCAMORE HOTEL WHERE HE INTENDED TO STOP!

JUST AS I THOUGHT! TWO CARDS PASTED TOGETHER... THE SECOND ONE SHOWING A HAND-SKETCHED MAP OF THE BOAT AND THE EXACT SPOT WHERE BLACK-JACK HID THE SIXTY THOUSAND DOLLARS!

MISS LACEY, IS THE "BETTY LOU" STILL IN SERVICE?

GOODNESS, NO! IT'S BEEN DESERTED FOR YEARS! WHY, I BE-LIEVE IT'S LYING IN A SWAMP DOWN THE RIVER ONLY A FEW MILES FROM HERE!

WELL, THEN... WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

THEY'VE TALKED A LONG TIME, AND HE SHOWED HER THE CARD, AND NOW THEY'RE IN A HURRY TO GO SOME-WHERE... AND I'LL WAGER THAT SOMEWHERE IS THE TREASURE SPOT!

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# BATMAN AND ROBIN

BOB KANE

DOWN SOUTH FOR THE MARDI GRAS, BATMAN AND ROBIN BECOME INVOLVED IN A HUNT FOR AN OLD MISSISSIPPI GAMBLER'S HIDDEN WINNINGS. AS THEY LEAVE FOR THE CACHE, THEY ARE OBSERVED...

45 9-10

BATMAN LEFT WITH THE LACEY GIRL... AND VERY MUCH IN A HURRY! THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE!

AH! ZEN YOU THEENK THEY GO TO FIN' THE GAMBLING MONEY HIDDEN BY BLACKJACK LUCAS! NOW WE FOLLOW!

SOME TIME LATER, BATMAN, ROBIN AND ANN LACEY ARE ROCKETING UP THE MISSISSIPPI IN AN OLD SPEEDBOAT...

WHAT DID YOU SAY? THIS OLD TUB MAKES SO MUCH NOISE I CAN HARDLY HEAR YOU!

I SAID—TURN FOR THAT INLET AHEAD! IT LEADS RIGHT INTO THE BAYOU WHERE THE "BETTY LOU" WAS ABANDONED!

BANG! POP!

CHUG! BANG!

THERE IT IS!

CONSULTING THE MAP DRAWN BY BLACKJACK ON THE PLAYING CARD, IN 1879, BATMAN LOCATES THE LONG-SOUGHT MONEY CACHE!

IF THIS MAP IS RIGHT, SIXTY THOUSAND DOLLARS SHOULD BE IN YOUR HANDS IN A FEW MOMENTS!

CORRECTION, BATMAN... YOU MEAN **MY** HANDS!

MISTER BAGLEY! THOSE THUGS!... THEN *YOU'RE* THE ONE WHO'S BEHIND ALL THIS!

TOO BAD YOUR BOAT MADE SO MUCH NOISE YOU DEED NOT HEAR US FOLLOW IN OUR OWN BOAT!

CHECK!

TAKE 'EM, ROBIN!

BATMAN, I WOULDN'T WANT TO SPOIL THE YOUNG LADY'S CHARMING HAIR-DO, *BUT*... YOU UNDERSTAND?

HOLD IT, ROBIN! THE FAT FALSTAFF HAS US STOPPED COLD!

HURRY UP, KLINK... AND WHEN YOU'RE THROUGH, SLOSH THE GASOLINE ABOUT THE ROOM... AND *OVER THEM*... AND THEN... *STRIKE A MATCH!*

YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT! AT LEAST LET THE GIRL GO!

WHEN IT COMES TO SIXTY THOUSAND DOLLARS, BATMAN, I HAVE NO CONSCIENCE! HURRY UP WITH THE GASOLINE, KLINK... MEANWHILE WE'LL BE DIGGING UP THE LOOT!

THERE'S GONNA BE A HOT TIME... IN THE OLD TOWN... TONIGHT...

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# BATMAN AND ROBIN

BOB KANE

DOWN SOUTH FOR THE MARDI GRAS, BATMAN AND ROBIN HELP ANN LACEY FIND AN OLD MISSISSIPPI GAMBLER'S HIDDEN WINNINGS. ALSO SOUGHT BY A MR. BAGLEY WHO CAPTURES THEM AND PREPARES THEM FOR DEATH BY GASOLINE FLAMES....

46 9-17

ROBIN, LISTEN.... IF YOU CAN... BZZ.. .. BZZ... THEN... BZZ.. BZZ... GOT IT ?

UH-HUH...

HEY! WHAT'RE YOU TWO LUGS WHISPERIN' ABOUT! THINK YOU'RE GONNA PULL A FAST ONE ON ME ? I'LL FIX YOU!

UGH!

OH, NO—WE'LL FIX *YOU!*

IF YOU EVER WANT TO BREATHE AGAIN, YOU'LL CUT ROBIN'S ROPES—FAST!

AH! THINK OF IT... A FORTUNE LYING IN THIS OLD HULK ALL THESE YEARS... UNTIL NOW!

*KLINK! WE HAVE FOUND ZE MONEE! COME OUT NOW!*

DON'T BE IMPATIENT! HE'S COMING —RIGHT AT *YOU!*

YI-II-II!

OOF!

DON'T WORRY, BOSS! I'LL GET DAT GUY!

DON'T SHOOT! THE GASOLINE!

BANG

HEADS UP BATMAN!

YOW!

FALSTAFF FALL ON FACE!

SOMETIME LATER, THEY LOOK BACK AT THE FLAMING PADDLE-WHEELER....

IT'S ALMOST AS IF THAT OLD STEAMBOAT KEPT LIVING ALL THESE YEARS TILL SOMEBODY FOUND THE TREASURE, AND THEN DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO DIE!

NEXT MORNING, AND BRUCE AND DICK ARE EN ROUTE HOME TO GOTHAM CITY....

WHAT A MARDI GRAS! ALL THOSE COSTUMES! I DON'T CARE IF I NEVER SEE A COSTUME AGAIN... EXCEPT OUR OWN, OF COURSE!

THINK OF POOR BAGLEY. HE'LL BE SEEING COSTUMES FOR A LONG TIME— PRISON STRIPES AND BLUE-COATED PRISON GUARDS! IT'LL BE MARDI GRAS ALL THE TIME, BUT HE WON'T HAVE ANY FUN!

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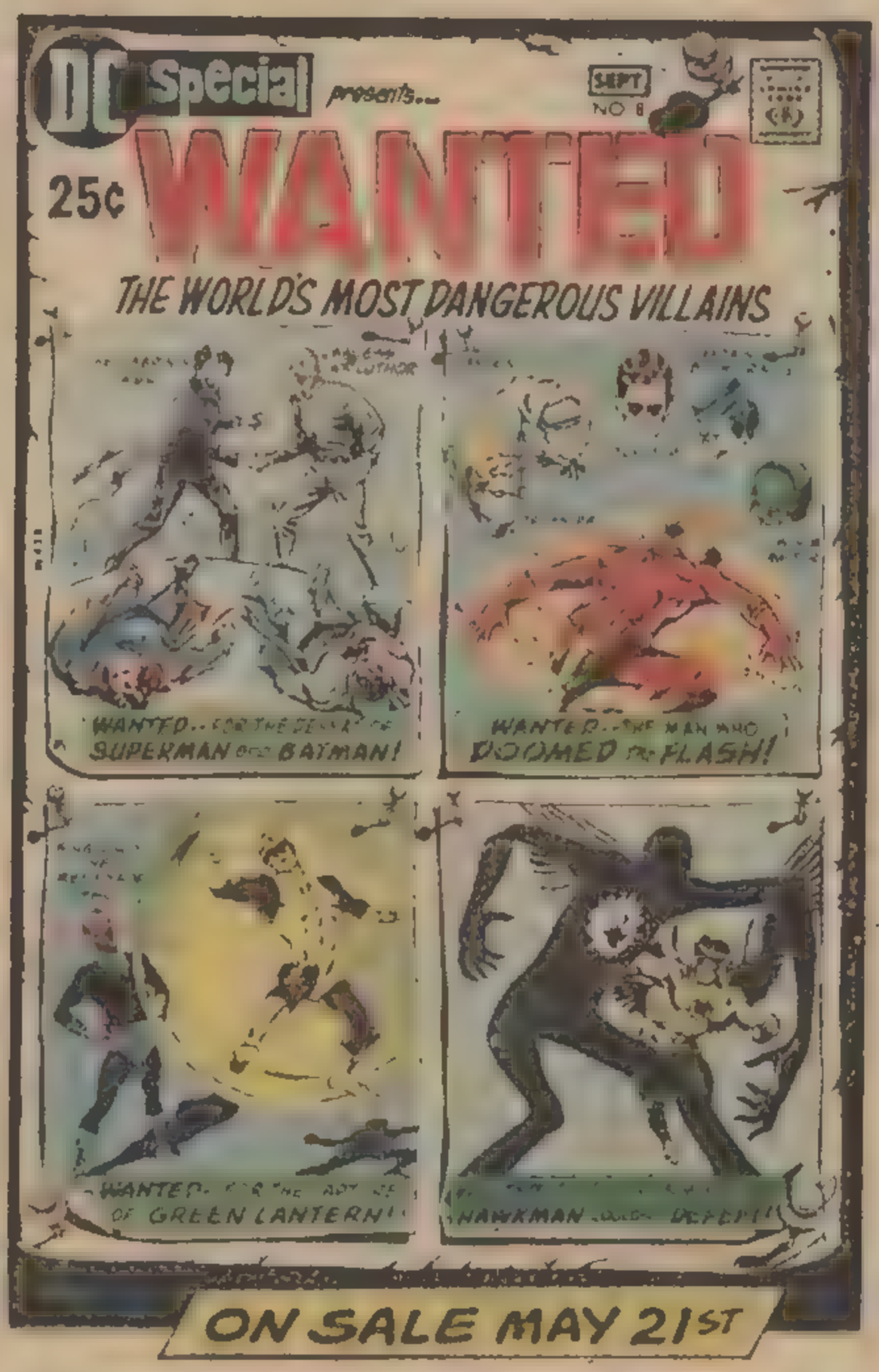


ON SALE MAY 21ST

# TWO GREAT HITS...

ON SALE APRIL 30TH

# NEW FROM

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ON SALE MAY 5TH

# BATMAN With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

LET BATMAN AND ROBIN PLANT THE FLAG ON THE PEAK! I'LL MAKE SURE THEY NEVER RETURN!

THERE WAS A CYLINDER OF MICROFILM WORTH MORE THAN MILLIONS TO THE UNDERWORLD... BUT IT WAS LOST--ATOP THE MOST DANGEROUS PEAK IN THE WORLD! SO BATMAN AND ROBIN MUST NOW JOIN AN EXPEDITION TO ASCEND THE UNCLIMBABLE MOUNT K-4! BUT THERE ARE COUNTLESS DANGERS ON THIS TRAIL ABOVE THE CLOUDS, AND THE FAMED CRIME-FIGHTERS NEED ALL THEIR SKILL AND WITS TO SURVIVE THE...

## JOURNEY TO THE TOP OF THE WORLD!

BOB KANE

from BATMAN No.93 (AUGUST, 1955).

ONE MORNING, HIGH OVER THE HIMALAYAS, AS A SOLITARY PLANE WINGS ITS WAY PAST A MIGHTY STRATOSPHERIC BARRIER OF ROCK KNOWN AS MOUNT K-4...

THE MOTOR'S ON FIRE! WE'RE GONNA CRASH!

GET RID OF THAT CYLINDER! WHATEVER HAPPENS, IT MUSTN'T BE FOUND IF THIS PLANE CRASHES!

A TINY BLACK CYLINDER HURTLES OUT OF THE DYING PLANE AND LANDS ON THE HARD-PACKED FROZEN SNOW ATOP K-4! SECONDS LATER, THERE IS A BURST OF FLAME AGAINST A MOUNTAINSIDE...

SHORTLY AFTERWARD, TWO WORLD-FAMED CRIME-FIGHTERS ARE SUMMONED TO THE F. B. I. OFFICES IN WASHINGTON...

BATMAN AND ROBIN, A PLANE RECENTLY LEFT HONG KONG CARRYING A MICROFILM WITH THE NAMES OF SOME SUPER-CRIMINALS WHO ARE FORMING AN INTERNATIONAL CRIME CARTEL!

WE'VE JUST LEARNED THAT THE PLANE CRASHED IN THE HIMALAYAS! OUR AGENTS REACHED THE WRECKAGE, BUT THEY COULD FIND NO TRACE OF THE MICROFILM! WE'VE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE UNDERWORLD IS SEARCHING FOR IT, TOO-- BUT THEY HAVEN'T FOUND IT EITHER!

WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED TO IT?

WE'RE SURE THAT THE CYLINDER WAS JETTISONED SHORTLY BEFORE THE CRASH! THAT WOULD PLACE ITS PROBABLE WHEREABOUTS HERE-- ON THE TOP OF MOUNT K-4!

THE WORLD'S MOST UNCLIMBABLE PEAK! THE PLACE WHERE THE MYSTERY SNOW CREATURE OF LEGEND IS SUPPOSED TO LIVE!

HIMALAYAS

AS IT HAPPENS, THERE'S AN EXPEDITION SETTING OUT TO TRY TO CONQUER K-4! WE'D LIKE YOU TO JOIN IT, BATMAN, AND FIND THAT MISSING CYLINDER!

IT'LL BE SOMETHING LIKE LOOKING FOR A NEEDLE-- ON THE BIGGEST HAYSTACK IN THE WORLD... BUT WE'LL DO OUR BEST, SIR!

SOON, IN THEIR EVERYDAY IDENTITIES OF BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON...

NOBODY'S EVER SUCCEEDED IN REACHING THE PEAK OF K-4, DICK! A LOT OF MEN HAVE DIED TRYING TO DO IT!

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE TWO CRACKERJACK AMERICAN MOUNTAINEERS, BRUCE MARTIN AND DICK GREEN, EH? I HOPE WE CAN LIVE UP TO OUR... UH... REPUTATIONS!

A FEW DAYS LATER, HALF A WORLD AWAY...

MY NAME IS HANS VERGLAS... I WILL LEAD THE EXPEDITION UP K-4! I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET THE OTHERS WHO ARE GOING ALONG WITH US!

PAUL FRECHET-- THE BEST MOUNTAINEER IN FRANCE!

SIDNEY SMYTHE IS ENGLAND'S RENOWNED CLIMBER!

RAMON NOSOTRO OF BRAZIL-- WHO HAS CONQUERED THE HIGHEST PEAKS OF HIS NATIVE SOUTH AMERICA!

That evening, in the room of one of the expedition members..

We will conquer K-4 because we must! But only I shall live to reach the summit! No witnesses can return to tell what lies on the peak of K-4!

Before dawn, the expedition sets out! Higher and higher they climb... until as they mount a couloire*..

Hans Verglas took a chance coming this way! Climbing a gully like this is risky... it's where most rock falls take place, Dick!

Golly, Bruce.. one's starting already!

*couloire: a steep gully on a mountain.

A swift rattling sound deepens, increases... and a bombardment of stones beats down on Bruce and Dick...

Quick! Hold on with one hand, Dick--and take off your knapsack!

Using their knapsacks as shields, they barely survive the dazing barrage of rock..

Whew! The rock fall is stopping!

Why did Hans Verglas take such a risky route? Was this an accident--or was he deliberately trying to get rid of us?

Across the bergschrund* the tiny party of intrepid climbers makes its way...

This is tricky going, Dick... There's usually a large crevasse here! One false step--and we'll all plunge right through.

*bergschrund: the crevasse at the head of a glacier.

Later, as they mount a difficult wall of ice...

Ya-aa-aa...

Sydney Smythe! His rope snapped!

Oh, no!

He's gone! Poor fellow... th-there's nothing we can do!

Hmm... this rope isn't frayed through! It's been cut by an ice axe! Guess it's time for Batman and Robin to make an appearance!

DAWN--AND AS THE EXPEDITION MAKES READY TO RESUME ITS CLIMB...

I'VE GOT A SHARP STONE IN MY SHOE, FELLOWS! YOU GO AHEAD, AND I'LL CATCH UP LATER!

I'LL STICK WITH YOU, BRUCE... YOU MAY NEED FIRST AID!

SOON AFTER...

THESE SNOWMEN REPLICAS OF OURSELVES WILL FOOL ANYBODY WHO LOOKS BACK TO SEE IF WE'RE STILL AROUND!

MEANWHILE, IT'LL GIVE US A CHANCE TO INVESTIGATE THE MURDER OF SYDNEY SMYTHE!

AND AFTER A TORTUROUS DESCENT...

SMYTHE'S BODY MUST HAVE LANDED JUST ABOUT--

BATMAN! SOMEBODY'S SHOOTING AT US!

PING

SWIFTLY, THEY DART FOR SHELTER BENEATH A ROCK OVERHANG...

HE'S GETTING CLOSE, BATMAN! WE'RE PINNED LIKE BUTTERFLIES ON A BOARD!

PING

PING

ONLY ONE WAY OUT--UP THE CLIFF! HMM... THERE'S A PITON* LEFT BEHIND BY THE OTHER CLIMBERS!

*PITON: A STEEL SPIKE USED BY MOUNTAINEERS TO HOLD A CLIMBING ROPE.

NO USE, THOUGH... THE ROPE WON'T REACH IT!

IT JUST MISSED!

THE CAPED CRIME-BUSTER'S INGENUITY COMES QUICKLY INTO PLAY, AS HE PIECES OUT THE ROPE WITH HIS BELT BUCKLE AND A COIL OF WIRE FROM HIS BELT-RADIO KIT...

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

THE ROPE IS JUST LONG ENOUGH NOW! UP WE GO!

WHEW! NOT MUCH TIME TO SPARE! THAT MARKSMAN JUST GOT A BEAD ON OUR HIDING PLACE!

PING

FINALLY, AS THEY GAIN A VANTAGE OF SAFETY...

THE KILLER VANISHED... NO CHANCE OF FINDING HIM AGAIN ON THIS MOUNTAIN!

WE MAY AS WELL REJOIN THE OTHERS. GOSH-- NOW WE KNOW FOR SURE THAT ONE OF THEM IS A MURDERER!

LATER, AS NIGHT FALLS...

ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE EXPEDITION ARE PRESENT! WHICH ONE SNEAKED AWAY TO MAKE THAT ATTACK ON US?

I NOTICED SOMETHING THAT WILL INTEREST BATMAN!

AND AT THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY...

I CHECKED EVERYBODY'S EQUIPMENT, BRUCE, AND RAMON NOSOTRO HAS LOST HIS ICE AXE!

HMM... IT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED WHEN HE CUT THE ROPE THAT SENT SYDNEY SMYTHE PLUNGING TO HIS DEATH! WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP A CAREFUL WATCH ON HIM!

THE THIRD DAY'S CLIMB FINDS THE MOUNTAINEERS GRADUALLY NEARING THE FINAL PEAK OF K-4...

EVERYBODY-- WAIT!

WHAT'S WRONG, FRECHET?

LOOK... THOSE QUEER TRACKS IN ZE SNOW! THEY ARE ZE FOOTPRINTS OF ZE MYSTERY SNOW CREATURE!

FANTASTIC! I DON'T BELIEVE IT, FRECHET!

BUT AFTER A SHORT DISCUSSION...

WE ARE GOING TO FOLLOW ZE TRACKS! TO SOLVE ZE MYSTERY OF ZE MYSTERY SNOW CREATURE IS TOO GOOD A CHANCE FOR US TO MISS!

WE'LL PUSH ON... WE WANT TO MAKE THE SUMMIT! TODAY!

AS SOON AS THE OTHERS DEPART, BRUCE AND DICK CHANGE INTO THEIR SPECIALLY HEAT-INSULATED COSTUMES.

DO YOU THINK THE "CREATURE'S" TRACKS WERE PLANTED TO LURE THE OTHERS AWAY FROM TRYING TO MAKE THE PEAK OF K-4?

IT'S POSSIBLE, ROBIN! FRECHET SEEMED AWFULLY ANXIOUS TO FOLLOW THE TRAIL! BUT IF IT'S A TRICK, HE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE THE OTHERS EVENTUALLY-- AND HEAD FOR THE SUMMIT ALONE!

HIGHER AND HIGHER THEY CLIMB, INTO THE THIN AIR, WHERE EVERY MOVEMENT BECOMES A TERRIBLE EXERTION...

LOOK OUT FOR THIS WET SNOW, ROBIN! THE SLIGHTEST DISTURBANCE CAN CAUSE WET SNOW TO SLIDE!

SUDDENLY...

HOLD IT-- THIS IS AS FAR AS YOU GO, BATMAN! ONLY ONE OF US IS GOING TO REACH THE PEAK ALIVE!

GREAT SCOTT! HE'S GOT ME COLD! I-I CAN'T MOVE!

FAR BELOW, DANGLING HELPLESSLY, ROBIN QUICKLY FUMBLES FOR HIS BELT-RADIO...

ONLY ONE SLIM CHANCE TO SAVE BATMAN! IT MAY COST HIS LIFE-- BUT HE'S SURE TO DIE IF I DON'T RISK IT!

ROBIN SHOUTS AS LOUD AS HE CAN INTO THE SENSITIVE MICROPHONE...

BATMAN! LOOK OUT!

AND AS HIS VOICE REVERBERATES THROUGH BATMAN'S BELT RADIO...

BATMAN! LOOK OUT!

WHAT--? THE SOUND WAVES ARE CAUSING AN AVALANCHE!

THE SWIFTLY SLIDING SNOW MASS CARRIES BATMAN OVER THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF, AS...

GOT TO TIME THIS RIGHT-- OR BATMAN IS A GONER!

UHHH! NEARLY PULLED MY ARM OUT OF ITS SOCKET-- BUT I'VE GOT YOU!

BUT UPON RETURNING TO THE LEDGE WHERE THE MYSTERIOUS KILLER APPEARED...

HE'S GONE!

HE MUST BE HEADING FOR THE SUMMIT! WE'VE GOT TO BEAT HIM THERE!

RISKING DEATH TIME AFTER TIME, THE INTREPID CRIME-FIGHTERS SURGE UPWARD TOWARD DIZZYING HEIGHTS NEVER REACHED BEFORE BY MORTAL MAN!

MOUNTAINEERS CALL THIS CLIMBING "COURT ECHELLE"! WHEN THERE'S NO OTHER HANDHOLD, THEY SIMPLY CLIMB UP OVER EACH OTHER'S BODIES!

AT 27,000 FEET, THEY DON SMALL PORTABLE OXYGEN MASKS, ENABLING THEM TO BREATHE IN THE RAREFIED ATMOSPHERE, THEN RESUME THEIR CLIMB--TILL FINALLY...

THE SUMMIT! WE'LL BE THE FIRST TO PLANT THE FLAG!

HARD FOUGHT MINUTES LATER...

W-WE'D BETTER START DOWN... I--I'M GETTING DIZZY! OXYGEN'S STARTING--TO GIVE--OUT...

THE CYLINDER... I FOUND IT!

ABRUPTLY, A BARKED COMMAND...

I'LL TAKE THAT CYLINDER! THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, BATMAN! YOU WERE LUCKY-- BUT NOW YOUR LUCK HAS RUN OUT!

IT DOES APPEAR THAT WAY!

UNSEEN, BATMAN'S DEFT FINGERS SLIP A SHAVING MIRROR OUT OF HIS MOUNTAINEER'S KNAPSACK, AND...

APPEARANCES CAN BE DECEIVING! FOR INSTANCE, LIGHT RAYS REFLECTED FROM SNOW APPEAR TWICE AS DAZZLING IN A MIRROR!

I--I CAN'T SEE!

HIGH ON A LONELY PEAK, TWO MEN STRUGGLE GRIMLY FOR POSSESSION OF A PRICELESS CYLINDER! AND WHEN A MASK SLIPS...

IT--IT'S SYDNEY SMYTHE! YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THAT FALL!

GASPING FOR BREATH IN THE THIN AIR, THE FIGHTERS ROLL OVER AND OVER UNTIL...

OH, NO! THEY'RE BOTH GOING OVER THE EDGE!

A SNAKE-LIKE COIL OF ROPE WHIZZES OUT TO CATCH BATMAN...

WHEW! NOT A SECOND TOO SOON! SMYTHE'S FINISHED, THOUGH...

LATER, WHEN BATMAN AND ROBIN SWITCH COSTUMES AND REJOIN THE OTHERS...

AND SO WE PLANTED THE FLAG ATOP K-4'S SUMMIT!

FRANKLY, I'M SORRY WE DIDN'T GO ALONG WITH YOU! OUR HUNT FOR THE MYSTERY SNOW CREATURE WAS A FAILURE! THE TRACKS PETERED OUT ON ROCKY GROUND!

WHEN BRUCE AND DICK ARE ALONE...

THAT FAKE SYDNEY SMYTHE MUST HAVE BEEN A CRIMINAL HIRED BY THE UNDERWORLD! HE STOLE ANOTHER MAN'S IDENTITY TO JOIN THE EXPEDITION--AND THEN ARRANGED TO BE "KILLED" SO HE COULD OPERATE ALONE TO FIND THE CYLINDER!

HE MUST HAVE TIMED HIS FALL TO LAND IN A DEEP SNOW BANK WHERE HE WOULDN'T BE HURT! IT WAS A DARING SCHEME, DICK, AND IT NEARLY WORKED!

NEXT DAY, WHEN THE EXPEDITION RETURNS TO GROUND LEVEL, A STUNNING SURPRISE AWAITS THEM...

GENTLEMEN, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET THE REAL SYDNEY SMYTHE! HE SHOWED UP TWO DAYS AFTER YOU LEFT HERE!

A FRIGHTFUL MIXUP, WHAT? ON THE WAY TO MEET YOU CHAPS, I WAS ATTACKED, AND MY IDENTIFICATION PAPERS WERE STOLEN! I ARRIVED TOO LATE TO JOIN YOU!

NATURALLY, WE SUSPECTED EVERYONE EXCEPT HIM! BUT THERE'S ONE MYSTERY WE STILL HAVEN'T SOLVED... DID HE REALLY PLANT THE TRACKS OF THE "SNOW CREATURE"?

HMM... THOSE TRACKS MIGHT HAVE BEEN REAL, AT THAT! PERHAPS SOMEDAY WE'LL GO BACK UP K-4, TO FIND OUT!

THE END.

# BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

FROM THE SEWERS OF PARIS--FROM THE LABYRINTH OF THE CASBAH--TO THE BULLRING OF MEXICO-- **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** EMBARK ON THE MOST DANGEROUS, MOST URGENT JOURNEY OF THEIR CAREERS! FOR, ON THE SUCCESS OF THEIR MISSION DEPENDS THE LIFE OF A MAN-- A LIFE THAT CAN ONLY BE SAVED IF THE CAPED DETECTIVES CAN RACE...

## AROUND THE WORLD IN 8 DAYS

HA, HA... YOU TRAILED ME ALL THE WAY TO HOLLAND, **BATMAN**, ONLY TO MEET YOUR DEATH!

from DETECTIVE No. 248 (OCTOBER, 1957).

ONE NIGHT, AT **GOTHAM HOSPITAL**, AS THREE BANDITS, DISGUISED AS SURGEONS, MAKE THEIR GETAWAY...

WE GOT EVERY OUNCE OF RADIUM AND PLATINUM IN THE PLACE! LET'S GO!

SHORTLY, IN THE MANSION OF SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE AND H'S YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON...

THE **BAT-SIGNAL**, BRUCE... POLICE HEADQUARTERS' CALL TO **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN!**

WE'LL SWITCH TO OUR COSTUMES, AND MAKE CONTACT ON OUR SECRET POLICE RADIO!

SOON AFTER AT THE HOSPITAL...

THE BANDITS DON'T KNOW IT, BUT AMONG THEIR LOOT IS A NEW "MIRACLE" DRUG! IT TAKES A MONTH TO PREPARE THIS NEW SERUM... BUT WE HAVE A PATIENT WHO NEEDS IT WITHIN A FEW DAYS -- OR ELSE HE'LL DIE!

SPURRED BY THE URGENCY, THE CRIME-BUSTERS SEARCH THE SUPPLY ROOM FOR A POSSIBLE CLUE...

LOOK HERE, **ROBIN**-- A BIT OF MUD THAT DROPPED FROM ONE BANDIT'S SHOE! IT CONTAINS CLAY, PINE NEEDLES, AND RABBIT HAIRS! THAT SUGGESTS A RABBIT FARM...

AND THE ONE PLACE WHERE THERE'S CLAY AND PINE TREES IS ATOP **CODY MOUNTAIN**, JUST OUTSIDE THE CITY!

WITHIN AN HOUR, AT THE GANG'S SHODDY HIDEOUT...

CRASH!

**BATMAN** AND **ROBIN!** TH-THEY TRACKED US DOWN!

LIKE A PAIR OF FIGHTING MACHINES, THE MASKED LAWMEN SWIFTLY SUBDUE THEIR FOE...

THAT WRAPS IT UP!

NOW... WHERE'S YOUR LOOT FROM THE HOSPITAL? TALK!

IT-IT'S GONE! ...SPLIT UP AND SENT TO "FENCES" ALL OVER THE WORLD! THAT'S ALL I CAN TELL YOU... HONEST, BATMAN!

IT IS THEN THAT BATMAN NOTICES A MAP OF THE WORLD...

SO THAT'S IT... A WORLD-WIDE SYNDICATE, WITH INTERNATIONAL "FENCES" WHO HOLD THE LOOT TILL IT COOLS OFF, THEN SELL IT! THESE PIN-MARKERS MUST INDICATE WHERE THEIR AGENTS ARE LOCATED!

LATER, AFTER DELIVERING THE THREE CROOKS TO JAIL...

WHAT IF WE ADVERTISE IN THE FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS, EXPLAINING WHY THAT SERUM MUST BE RETURNED?

NO--IF WE DID THAT, THE SYNDICATE MIGHT TRY TO COVER ITS TRACKS BY DESTROYING THE SERUM! SO FAR, THE "FENCE" TO WHOM THE SERUM HAS BEEN SENT DOESN'T REALIZE WHAT HE HAS...

...AND SO FAR, NONE OF THE "FENCES" KNOWS WE'VE CRACKED THE GANG HERE IN THE UNITED STATES! THAT'S OUR ONE BREAK! HOW MANY DAYS CAN YOUR PATIENT LIVE WITHOUT THE SERUM?

JUST EIGHT DAYS!

THEN, ROBIN AND I WILL HAVE TO RACE FROM ONE "FENCE" TO ANOTHER-- UNTIL WE FIND THE ONE WHO HAS THE SERUM!

AND WE HAVE TO DO IT IN JUST EIGHT DAYS... EIGHT DAYS IN WHICH TO TRAVEL AROUND THE WORLD!

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, THUNDERING JET ENGINES SIGNAL THE START OF THE FAMED BAT-PLANE, ON THE FIRST LEG OF ITS URGENT JOURNEY...

...AND WITH IT RIDE THE HOPES OF A MAN LYING IN GOTHAM HOSPITAL!

DOCTOR, WHAT IF BATMAN DOESN'T FIND THE SERUM IN TIME?

HE WILL... HE MUST!

SOME HOURS LATER...

HERE'S THE FIRST PLACE INDICATED BY A PIN ON THAT MAP... THIS LITTLE FARMING TOWN IN HOLLAND!

PURPLE GOAT X

AS FOR THE CODE ON THIS ATTACHED STUB... **PURPLE GOAT** COULD BE THE NAME OF A RESTAURANT OR INN!

AND AN X COULD MARK IT AS THE "FENCE'S" HIDEOUT! WE'D BETTER START SEARCHING THIS LOCALE!

AS NIGHT FALLS, HOWEVER...

NO "PURPLE GOAT" RESTAURANT OR INN OR ANY OTHER PLACE MARKED BY AN X

WAIT, **ROBIN**-- LOOK! **THERE'S** AN "X"-- FORMED BY THE BLADES OF A WINDMILL! I WONDER...?

AFTER QUESTIONING SOME LOCAL RESIDENTS...

THERE IT IS--THE **PURPLE GOAT!** IT WAS EASY TO FIND, ONCE WE LEARNED THAT HOLLANDERS GIVE **NAMES** TO THEIR WINDMILLS!

AND A WINDMILL MAKES A PERFECT HIDEOUT!

BUT JUST THEN, AS A LOOKOUT STROLLS OUT TO THE BALCONY...

OH,OH... WE'VE BEEN SPOTTED! BUT WE CAN'T TURN BACK NOW... WE'VE GOT TO FIND THAT SERUM!

POW!

WITH A DEFT LEAP, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** GRAB AT THE CHURNING WINDMILL BLADES...

WHAT...?

SURPRISE IS THE BEST ATTACK!

HANS! CLAUS! HELP!

DOWN, ROBIN!

THUNK

WHI-ZZ-ZZZZ

BUT THE BATTLE IS FAR FROM OVER, AS...

WELL, BATMAN AND ROBIN.. YOU HAVE TRAVELED A LONG WAY TO MEET DEATH!

SUDDENLY, AS THE WINDMILL BLADE COMPLETES A HALF CIRCLE...

WHEW WHAT A BREAK!

WOW

AFTER BINDING THEIR PRISONERS, BATMAN AND ROBIN HASTILY EXAMINE THEIR LOOT...

HERE'S PART OF THE PLATINUM THE GANG STOLE.. BUT NO SERUM!

THEN WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GO ON TO VENICE, AND HOPE IT'S THERE!

AND SO THE BAT-PLANE JETS OFF TO ITS NEXT DESTINATION--WHILE IN A HOSPITAL, A MAN DRAWS ONE DAY CLOSER TO DEATH!.

THE FOLLOWING MORNING, IN THE ITALIAN CITY OF VENICE, THE CRIME-BUSTERS TRY TO MAKE SENSE OF THEIR ONE CLUE...

RED, YELLOW, GREEN STRIPES

ALL WE CAN DO, BATMAN, IS LOOK FOR A PLACE THAT HAS THOSE STRIPES--AND HOPE IT LEADS US TO THE SERUM!

SHORTLY, AS THEY APPROACH ONE OF VENICE'S FAMOUS CANALS...

LOOK, **BATMAN!** THOSE MOORING POSTS HAVE DIFFERENT COLORED STRIPES ON THEM!

YOU'VE HIT IT, **ROBIN!** NOW, ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FIND THE POST THAT MATCHES THE CLUE!

BUT, AS THEY HIRE A GONDOLA, AND BEGIN THE SEARCH...

**BATMAN** AND **ROBIN!** THEY WOULD NOT BE HERE UNLESS THEY WERE INVESTIGATING ME! I MUST STOP THEM!

OOOO...

THUS, WHEN **BATMAN** FINALLY SPOTS HIS OBJECTIVE...

THERE, **ROBIN**-- THERE'S THE... WHAT--?

WHISH!

YOU KNOW TOO MUCH, **BATMAN!**

LIKE A KNIGHT OF OLD, **BATMAN** PARRIES ANOTHER THRUST--

CRACK

--AND THEN, RAMMING HIS OAR-POLE INTO THE SHALLOW CANAL WATER...

AFTER TAKING THE GONDOLIER PRISONER, A CAREFUL SEARCH OF THE MOORING POST REVEALS...

THE LOOT WAS HIDDEN IN A WATERPROOF SACK TIED TO THE POST!

SURE... HE USED HIS GONDOLA AS A FLOATING "STORE," TO SELL STOLEN GOODS TO PASSENGERS!

BUT ONCE AGAIN, AS THEY SEEK OUT THE VITAL SERUM...

IT'S NOT HERE, EITHER!

THEN, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GO ON, UNTIL WE FIND THE SERUM--AND HOPE WE WON'T BE TOO LATE!

SO, WITH A HUMAN LIFE HANGING IN THE BALANCE, THE SEARCH CONTINUES-- FROM THE WINDING SEWERS OF PARIS...

...AND THE SPRAWLING PLAYLAND OF VIENNA...

BANG

...TO THE RUINS OF CLASSIC GREECE...

POW

...AND THE TWISTING STREETS OF ALGIERS!

BUT, AT THE END OF THE SIXTH DAY...

ONLY TWO DAYS LEFT--TWO SHORT DAYS-- AND WE STILL HAVEN'T FOUND THE SERUM!

DON'T GIVE UP HOPE YET, BATMAN-- WE STILL HAVE A FIGHTING CHANCE!

MEANWHILE, WHERE THE STRICKEN MAN LIES, HELPLESSLY WAITING...

PULSE BEAT IS VERY SLOW... HE'S WEAKENING RAPIDLY!

WHAT'S KEEPING **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN?** WHY HAVEN'T THEY RETURNED YET?

THE ANSWER RESTS IN EXOTIC SIAM, SITE OF THE SEVENTH CLUE...

A KIND OF CHECKERBOARD.. AND NEAR IT, A TRIANGLE MARKED "S"! IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, **BATMAN!**

IT DOES TO ME, **ROBIN...**

RICE PADDY FIELDS ARE LAID OUT IN SQUARES, AND THE "S" REFERS TO A **SNAKE-DRAGON!** WE'VE GOT TO LOOK FOR A SNAKE-DRAGON TEMPLE BEHIND A RICE PADDY FIELD!

BUT THIS TIME, AS THEY REACH THEIR DESTINATION...

HAH! WE WERE EXPECTING YOU, **BATMAN!** YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT AN AGENT YOU CAPTURED IN ALGIERS ESCAPED THE POLICE, AND SENT US A WARNING THAT YOU WERE COMING!

LATER, IMPRISONED SOMEWHERE IN A TEMPLE ROOM, **BATMAN** WASTES NO TIME IN PLANNING AN ESCAPE...

IF I CAN JUST LIFT THAT TORCH OUT...

... AND BRING IT UP HIGH ENOUGH...

IT'S WORKING, **BATMAN!** YOU'RE BURNING THROUGH THE ROPE!

SOON...

WHAT ARE WE DOING OUT HERE? WHY DON'T WE GO BACK INSIDE AND SEARCH FOR THE LOOT?

BECAUSE IT WOULD TAKE TOO MUCH TIME... THAT TEMPLE COULD HAVE 100 SECRET HIDING PLACES! HELP ME GATHER SOME BAMBOO STALKS... HURRY!

MOMENTS LATER, INSIDE...

CRACK POP

GUNSHOTS OUT THERE! THE POLICE!

I'LL TAKE THE LOOT... THEN WE MUST RUN IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS, SO THAT THE POLICE DO NOT KNOW WHO TO FOLLOW!

AS THREE OF THE THUGS EMERGE...

GOOD THING YOU KNEW THAT BURNING RIPE BAMBOO EXPLODES AND CRACKS JUST LIKE PISTOL SHOTS!

HERE THEY COME-- BUT NONE OF THEM IS CARRYING ANY LOOT!

DESCENDING, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** CIRCLE THE TEMPLE, UNTIL...

THAT'S OUR MAN! HE MUST HAVE SNEAKED OUT THE BACK...

HIM? BUT THAT'S ONLY A RICE WORKER CARRYING HIS MARKET BASKETS!

IN SIAM, ONLY THE **WOMEN** CARRY MARKET BASKETS! HE WAS SNEAKING THE LOOT AWAY INSIDE THOSE BASKETS!

BUT, AFTER A QUICK SEARCH OF THE CACHE...

HERE'S THE RADIUM STOLEN FROM THE HOSPITAL-- BUT NO SERUM!

WELL, AT LEAST WE KNOW NOW THAT THE SERUM IS WITH THE LAST "FENCE"-- IN MEXICO!

AS THE BAT-PLANE ROCKETS ONWARD--IN GOTHAM HOSPITAL, DOCTORS TENACIOUSLY TRY TO KEEP A SPARK OF LIFE ALIVE...

HE'S IN A COMA--SINKING FAST! IF BATMAN DOESN'T GET HERE SOON--THE SERUM WON'T DO ANY GOOD!

ARRIVING IN MEXICO, BATMAN EXAMINES THE CODE SYMBOL THAT IS THE LINK TO THE PRECIOUS SERUM...

A BULL'S HEAD INSIDE A RING... A BULLRING!

BUT, BATMAN, THERE'LL BE SO MANY PLACES TO SEARCH-- THE ARENA, THE STANDS, THE STALLS...

NO... BULLS ARE FREIGHTED IN FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE TO THE STADIUM! IT WOULD BE A PERFECT WAY OF SMUGGLING LOOT FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER-- SO LET'S SEARCH THE BULL STALLS!

PLAZA DE

PRESENTLY, IN THE MAIN BULL STALL...

GOOD THING THERE AREN'T ANY BULLS AROUND!

I'VE A HUNCH WE'LL FIND THE LOOT IN A STEEL BOX UNDER THAT PILE OF FODDER! AFTER ALL, WHO'D EVER THINK OF LOOKING FOR IT THERE?

BUT THEY DO NOT SEE A FURTIVE HAND LIFT THE DOOR OF AN ADJOINING STALL, UNTIL...

ROBIN! LOOK OUT!

DAZED BY HIS SLAM AGAINST THE WALL, THE BOY WONDER SLUMPS DOWN, UNAWARE OF THE FOUR-FOOTED FURY CHARGING TOWARD HIM...

GOT TO LURE THAT BULL AWAY FROM ROBIN...

DISTRACTED BY THE WAVING CAPE, THE ANIMAL STOPS SHORT...

A BULL ALWAYS CHARGES THE FLAPPING CAPE-- RATHER THAN THE MAN! COME ON, BIG BOY-- CHARGE!

AS THE ANGRY BEAST POUNDS AT HIM, BATMAN BACKS OUT OF THE STALL INTO THE ARENA...

NOW ROBIN'S SAFE-- BUT WHAT ABOUT ME?

AT THE LAST SPLIT INSTANT, THE MASKED LAWMAN SIDESTEPS-- AND DEADLY HORNS SLASH AT AN EMPTY CAPE!

AND NOW, BEFORE THE VACANT STANDS, BATMAN PUTS ON THE GREATEST BULL-FIGHTING PERFORMANCE OF ANY MATADOR...

5 MINUTES PASS, A FIGURE APPEARS AT THE BARRICADE, TO PEER AT THE SHADOWED ARENA...

HA, HA ... THE BULL HAS FINISHED BATMAN!

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU... I ONLY LEFT MY CAPE FOR THE BULL TO PLAY WITH!

BATMAN! SO-- I MUST FINISH YOU MYSELF, WITH A MATADOR SWORD!

BUT JUST AS SWIFTLY, BATMAN ARMS HIMSELF AND PARRIES THE SLASHING THRUST...

CLANG

THEN, WITH A DEFT TWIST OF THE WRIST, HE SENDS THE CRIMINAL'S BLADE FLYING!

I'VE GOT ONE MORE THING TO DO, BEFORE ROBIN AND I HEAD HOME!

IN THE MEANTIME, AT THE HOSPITAL, WHERE DOCTORS HAVE JUST ABOUT GIVEN UP HOPE...

HE'S GOING FAST! EVEN IF BATMAN DOES GET HERE WITH THE SERUM NOW, WE DON'T KNOW IF IT WILL DO ANY GOOD!

ABRUPTLY...

DOCTOR, WE'VE GOT IT! WE'VE GOT ITHE SERUM!

LET ME HAVE IT-- QUICKLY! THERE MAY STILL BE A CHANCE...

LATER, AS THE DOCTOR RUSHES INTO AN ANTE-ROOM...

IT'S TAKING EFFECT! HE'LL LIVE! HE--

SHHH-HHH, DOCTOR! YOU'LL AWAKEN THEM!

LET THEM SLEEP... THEY DESERVE A REST-- NOW!

THE END

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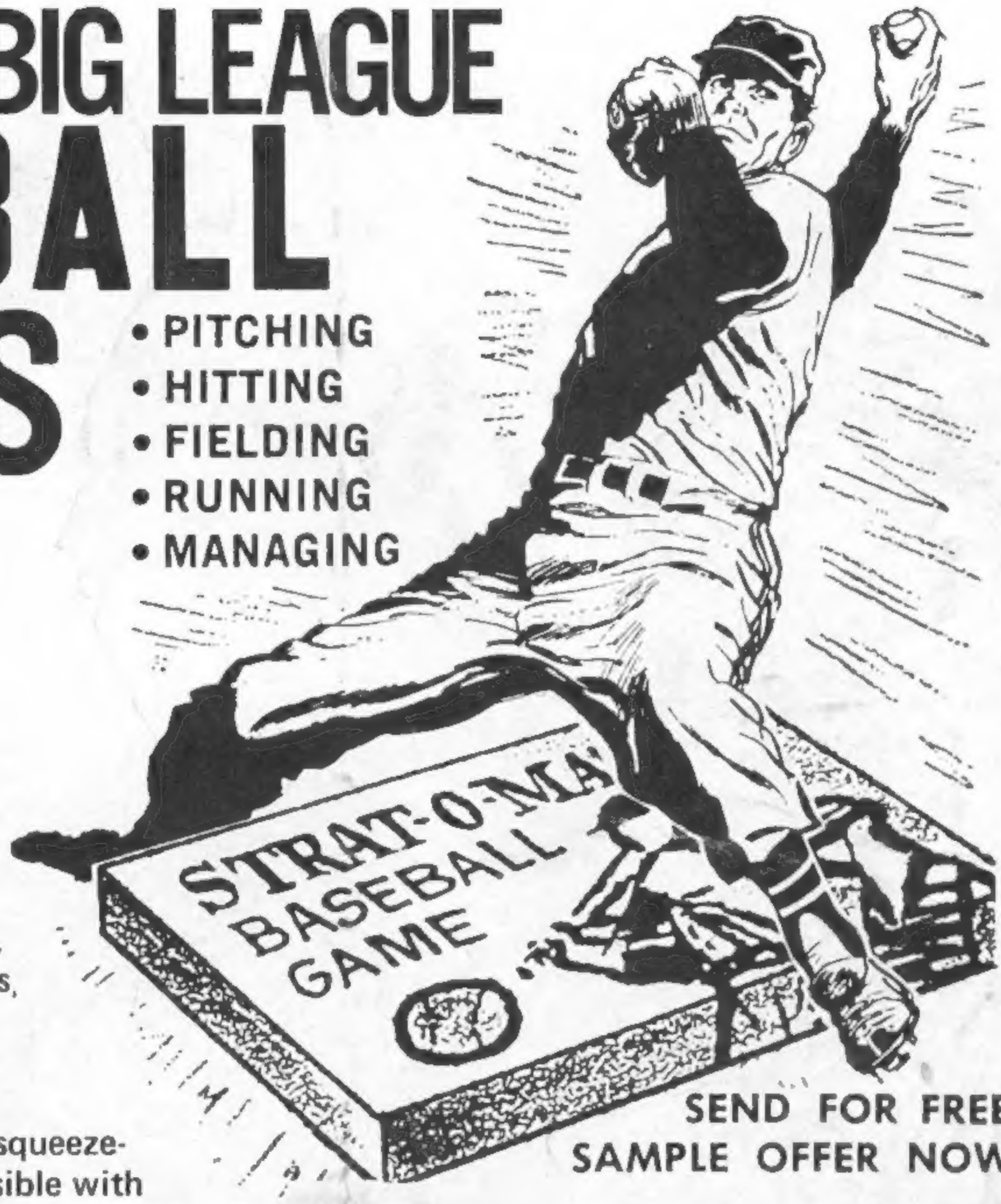


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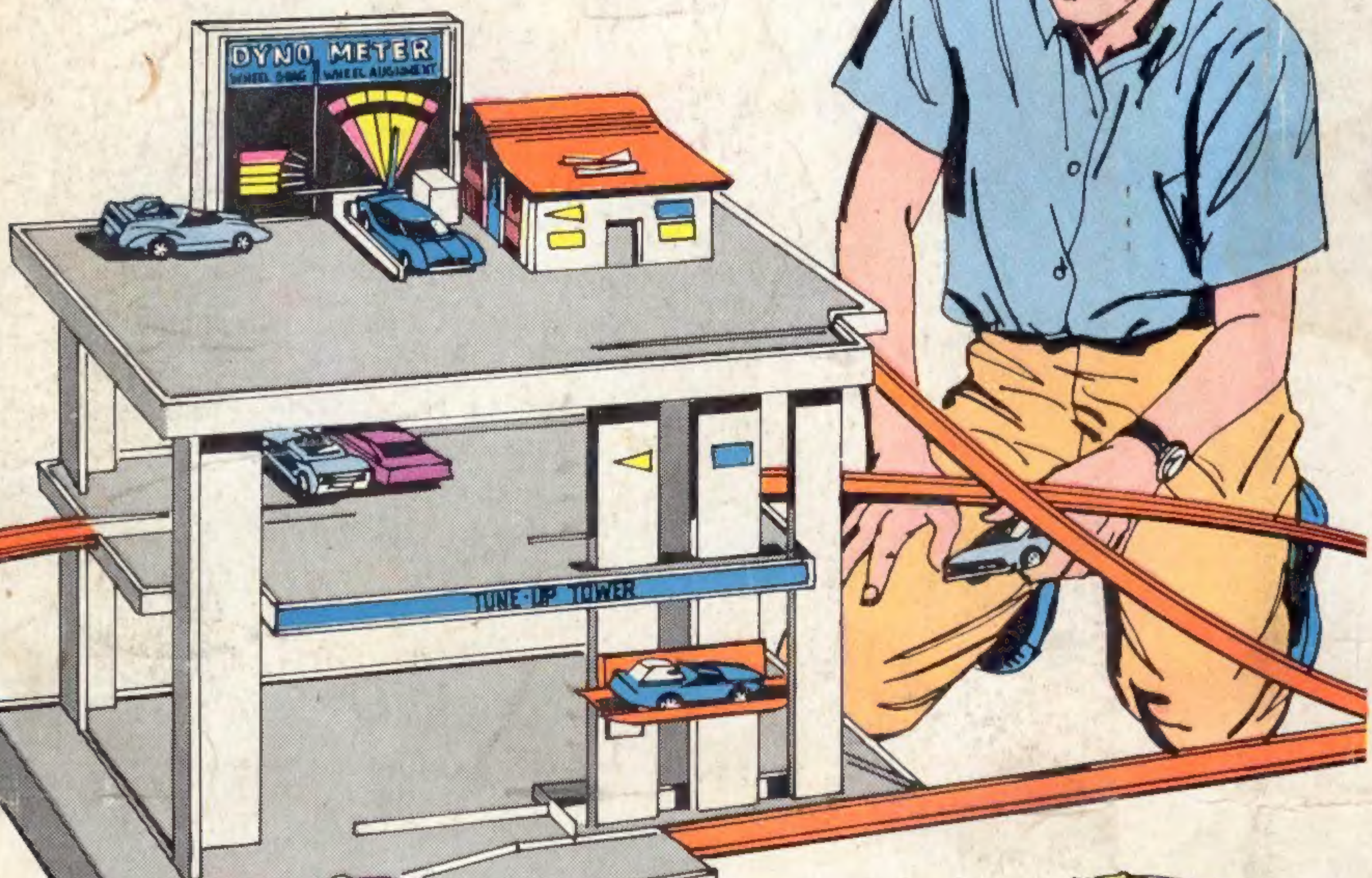
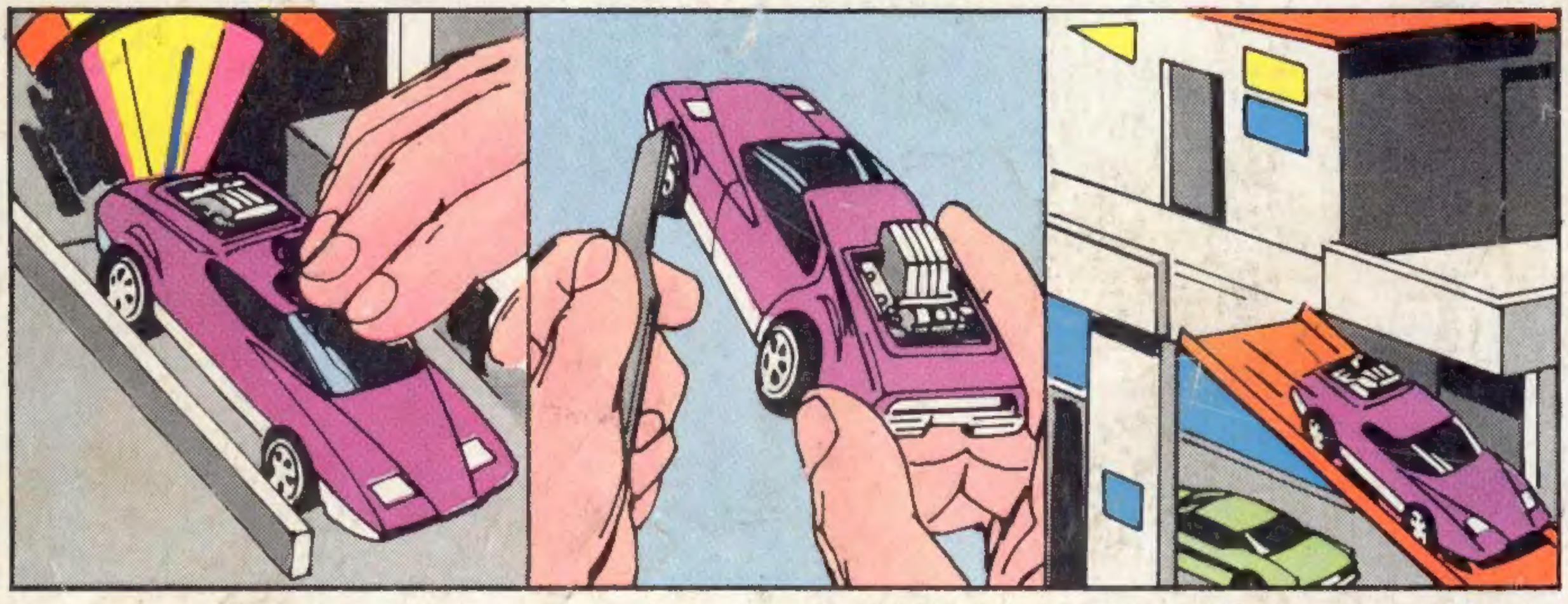
# Win more races with Hot Wheels Tune-Up Tower.




**Turn in.** The automatic elevator lifts your Hot Wheels up to Dyno-Meter at the top of the tower.



**Test out.** The Dyno-Meter checks out the power. Uh-oh, something's wrong. The wheels are *out of line.*

**Tune-Up.** A quick adjustment with the special wrench, then back into the Dyno-Meter for another check up. Hot Wheels passes the test with flying colors. You're back on the track again!

**Take-Off.** You're way out in front from the start. And your Hot Wheels finishes first!

Get back on the track with Hot Wheels Tune-Up Tower.™ And race with a winner.

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